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# The Honourable Alan W. Pope Minister of Natural Resources

## Statement to The Standing Committee on Resources Development

### Ministry Estimates

1984/85

May 1984



Ontario

Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Hon. Alan W. Pope  
Minister

John R. Sloan  
Deputy Minister



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1984-85 ESTIMATES

OF THE  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

REMARKS BY

THE HONOURABLE ALAN POPE  
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TO THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1984



## INTRODUCTION

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE... I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT FOR YOUR REVIEW AND APPROVAL MY MINISTRY'S ESTIMATES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1985.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN SIX MONTHS I HAVE APPEARED BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE WITH MY MINISTRY'S ESTIMATES. I CAN SAY TO YOU NOW, AS I SAID TO YOU WHEN I PRESENTED OUR REPORT FOR FISCAL 1984 LAST NOVEMBER, THAT THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW PROMISES TO BE AN EVENTFUL AND FRUITFUL ONE FOR THIS MINISTRY.

THE 1980s HAVE BEEN INTERESTING YEARS, SO FAR, FOR THIS MINISTRY. THIS DECADE, I BELIEVE, WILL SET THE TONE FOR A WHOLE NEW APPROACH TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THIS PROVINCE. IT WILL SET THE TONE FOR WHAT I LIKE TO CALL THE NEW POLITICS OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. I AM EXCITED BY THE PROGRESS WE HAVE SEEN SO FAR.

THIS MINISTRY'S APPROACH TO POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT YEARS HAS PUT A HEAVY EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.



WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO PLAN OUR RESOURCES FOR THE LONG TERM, FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ONTARIANS. WE HAVE STRESSED THE NEED TO FOSTER A SENSE OF PARTNERSHIP IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGING RESOURCES WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR. AND WE HAVE SHOWN OUR COMMITMENT TO THAT PARTNERSHIP IN MANY WAYS.

WE HAVE REFLECTED THIS COMMITMENT IN OUR APPROACH TO LAND USE PLANNING AND IN THE DRAFTING LAST YEAR OF OUR LAND USE PLANNING GUIDELINES. WE HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY IT IN OUR COMMUNITY FISHERIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM, IN OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS, AND IN THE WAY IN WHICH WE ORGANIZED OUR FOREST FIRE FIGHTING EFFORTS.

WE HAVE INCORPORATED IT IN OUR APPROACH TO THE DRAWING UP OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING HUNTING -- OUR MOOSE HUNT DRAW, FOR EXAMPLE -- AND OUR NEW THRUST IN CROWN LAND RECREATION. WE HAVE SEEN IT IN OUR VARIOUS FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL JOB CREATION PROGRAMS, OFFERING RESOURCE-RELATED EMPLOYMENT TO THOUSANDS OF OUT-OF-WORK ONTARIANS. AND WE HAVE USED IT IN OUR APPROACH TO THE DRAFTING OF VARIOUS PIECES OF LEGISLATION, SUCH AS THE CHANGES BEING MADE TO THE PROVINCE'S MINING ACT.

AS WE BEGIN FISCAL 1984-1985, I FEEL WE ARE TURNING A CORNER. I BELIEVE THE MESSAGE WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET ACROSS HAS FINALLY TAKEN HOLD. I BELIEVE THAT THE REALITY OF WIDE-RANGING PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR RESOURCES THAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FOSTER SINCE I TOOK OVER AS MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS FINALLY TAKING SHAPE.

ONTARIANS ARE STARTING TO TALK OPENLY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES. PEOPLE ARE TALKING MORE ABOUT LAND USE, ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THEIR FISHERY, ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THEIR WILDLIFE STOCK. PEOPLE ARE TALKING MORE ABOUT THEIR PROVINCIAL PARKS.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING WITH CONCERN ABOUT THE FORESTS, THE FUTURE OF MINING IN THIS PROVINCE, ABOUT WATER POLICY, ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR WETLANDS.

I THINK THAT IF THE ENERGY CRUNCH OF THE 70S TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT WAS THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE ANY OF OUR RESOURCES FOR GRANTED. WE CANNOT ASSUME THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS BE THERE. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET "OTHERS" ALWAYS BE IN CHARGE. ONTARIANS, IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS, ARE SHOWING THAT THEY CARE ABOUT RESOURCE POLICY AND ARE SPEAKING OUT.

WE IN GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUSH NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE FRONT OF PUBLIC ISSUES. WE HAVE OPENED UP DEBATES, AND PROVEN THAT WE CAN RESOLVE COMPLEX ISSUES EQUITABLY AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AN ENORMOUS DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS.

WE HAVE FOSTERED INTEREST IN THE DEBATE OVER THE FATE OF THIS PROVINCE'S RESOURCE BASE AMONG ORDINARY PEOPLE, NOT JUST THOSE WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS. AND WE HAVE OFFERED ALL INTERESTED PARTIES A LOUDER VOICE AND LARGER ROLE IN THE SHAPING OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY.

FINALLY, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHOW A LOT OF RESOURCEFULNESS IN MEETING THE DEMANDS OF OUR MANDATE AT A TIME OF ECONOMIC RESTRAINT. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRIDGE OUR OWN PROVINCIAL RESOURCES EFFORTS WITH THOSE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

OVERALL, WE HAVE STRENGTHENED OUR POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE POLICY WHILE ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO SHARE THE LOAD.



## LAND USE GUIDELINES

OUR DISTRICT LAND USE GUIDELINES EXERCISE REMAINS ONE OF OUR BEST EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

IT HAS BEEN ALMOST A YEAR SINCE THE LAND USE GUIDELINES WERE RELEASED. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE PROGRESSED EVEN FURTHER WITH OUR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS. THROUGH CONTINUED NEGOTIATION AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION, WE HAVE STRENGTHENED SUPPORT FOR OUR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS.

INITIALLY, WE ISSUED THE GUIDELINES IN DETAILED FORM IN 42 OF THE MINISTRY'S DISTRICTS. EARLY LAST SUMMER, PUBLIC INFORMATION WEEKS WERE HELD IN EACH DISTRICT TO ENABLE INTERESTED GROUPS TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE GUIDELINES. AFTER THAT, IN SOME DISTRICTS, THERE WERE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS -- MOSTLY WITH MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS -- TO FURTHER EXPLAIN THE GUIDELINES.

THE GUIDELINES PAINTED THE BIG PICTURE. THEY COMMITTED THIS GOVERNMENT TO A PHILOSOPHY OF MULTIPLE-USE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. AND FOR EACH DISTRICT, THEY INDICATED WHAT RESOURCE USE THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED FOR EACH AREA.

THE GUIDELINES ALSO CLARIFIED THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC RESOURCE ISSUES: ISSUES SUCH AS MINERAL AGGREGATES, CONTROL OF OUR FISHERIES AND OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THE GREAT LAKES. THEY OUTLINED NEW POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO ACCESS ROADS, MINERAL EXPLORATION IN PROVINCIAL PARKS, NON-RESIDENT USE OF OUR CROWN LAND, AND AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

THEY IDENTIFIED SOME 250 LAKES ON CROWN LAND WITH TOURISM POTENTIAL.

THEY LISTED 155 RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES FOR PROVINCIAL PARK STATUS, INCLUDING SIX NEW WILDERNESS AREAS THAT WERE APPROVED BY CABINET WHEN THE GUIDELINES WERE RELEASED.

FINALLY, THE GUIDELINES PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF OUR RESOURCES, AND THEY COMMITTED THIS GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUED CONSULTATION.

THE YEARS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DEBATE THAT WENT INTO DRAFTING THE GUIDELINES ARE BY NO MEANS OVER. WE HAVE DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF WHERE RESOURCE USES SHOULD GENERALLY TAKE PLACE. WE ARE NOW WORKING ON THE FINE TUNING.

MY MINISTRY'S STAFF HAS DRAWN UP A SET OF PROPOSALS FOR THE SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE BROAD PRINCIPLES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE PREPARING GUIDELINES THAT WILL TELL MANAGERS HOW MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREAS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. FOR THESE AREAS, PLANS WILL INCLUDE SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO PROTECT OTHER RESOURCE VALUES, SUCH AS WILDLIFE HABITAT, SHORELINES, OR PERHAPS PLANT COMMUNITIES.

GUIDELINES ARE ALSO BEING DEVELOPED FOR ENSURING THERE IS INTEGRATED PLANNING OF FOREST ACCESS ROADS. WE HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT MINING EXPLORATION WITHIN PROVINCIAL PARKS IS CARRIED OUT PROPERLY.

THIS IS A MUCH MORE TECHNICAL EXERCISE -- MAKING SURE THE PROPOSALS WE OUTLINED AND THE COMMITMENTS WE UNDERTOOK IN THE LAND USE GUIDELINES ARE FOLLOWED THROUGH. WE HAVE TO INTEGRATE THOSE BROAD PROPOSALS INTO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES THAT WORK -- AND THIS REQUIRES FURTHER CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION. WE HAVE INDICATED THE GENERAL DIRECTION IN LAND USE IN WHICH WE WISH TO PROCEED. IT IS NOW TIME TO START CARVING OUT PATHS.

THE ENTIRE LAND USE GUIDELINES EXERCISE HAS ALLOWED US TO ESTABLISH A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CONSTITUENTS, THE CONSTITUENTS OF THIS MINISTRY. THAT CONSTITUENCY TAKES IN A LOT OF TERRITORY -- FROM THE CHIEF OFFICER OF A FORESTRY GIANT TO A LONE CANOEIST SEEKING SOLITUDE IN ONE OF OUR WILDERNESS AREAS. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL SERVE US WELL AS WE ENDEAVOR TO IMPLEMENT THE OVERALL GOALS OF THE GUIDELINES.

WE LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING PROCESS THAT THERE IS NO FAST AND FINAL WAY TO ALLOCATE RESOURCES. IT IS A DELICATE AND COMPLEX TASK. WE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL SO FAR IN WINNING BROAD APPROVAL OF OUR GOALS, AND IN CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES FEEL THAT THEY HAVE A VOICE. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS SENSE OF GOOD WILL AND OPENNESS WILL CONTINUE.

### BICENTENNIAL

THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROMOTING ONTARIO'S BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES. MUCH OF THIS PROVINCE'S ECONOMIC HISTORY AND CURRENT STRENGTH IS BASED ON ITS WEALTH OF NATURAL RESOURCES. AND SO IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT WE LOOK FOR WAYS TO CELEBRATE HOW OUR 200 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO AND 100 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN ONTARIO ARE LINKED TO THIS RESOURCE WEALTH.



IT IS ALSO FITTING THAT WE HAVE CHOSEN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR TO NAME AN OFFICIAL TREE FOR THE PROVINCE. THE TREE CHOSEN BY THE ONTARIO TREE COUNCIL IS THE WHITE PINE. IT CAN BE FOUND GROWING IN MOST OF THE POPULATED AREAS OF THIS PROVINCE.

THE WHITE PINE OCCUPIES A SPECIAL PLACE IN ONTARIO'S EARLY HISTORY. FOR 500 YEARS, IT HAS BEEN A VITAL SYMBOL TO THE SIX NATIONS OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY. THE TREE SYMBOLIZES PEACE ROOTED IN THE EARTH AND LAW BINDING THE NATIONS TOGETHER. THE BRANCHES SYMBOLIZE SHELTER AND SECURITY, AND THE ROOTS ARE PEACE EXTENDED TO ALL MANKIND.

THE WHITE PINE IS ALSO A SYMBOL TO OTHER ONTARIANS. BOTH THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY AND THE FRENCH NAVY MADE SHIP MASTS FROM IT AND THE EXPORT OF WHITE PINE TIMBER FROM ONTARIO WAS A MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME DURING THE PROVINCE'S FIRST 50 YEARS. OUR EARLY SETTLERS USED IT TO BUILD HOMES, FURNITURE, TOOLS AND EVEN TOYS.

SELECTION OF THE WHITE PINE MAKES ONTARIO THE FIRST PROVINCE IN CANADA TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL TREE. THE LATE JAMES AULD, MY PREDECESSOR AS MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INITIATED THE SEARCH FOR A PROVINCIAL TREE IN 1980.

A BILL ENTITLED THE ARBOREAL EMBLEM ACT -- WHICH FORMALLY NAMES THE WHITE PINE OUR PROVINCIAL TREE -- RECEIVED ROYAL ASSENT ON MAY 1, 1984.

AND WE HAVE DECLARED MAY 25 ARBOR DAY -- A DAY WHEN THOUSANDS OF THE TREES WILL BE PLANTED ACROSS THE PROVINCE. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, WE WILL BE DISTRIBUTING WHITE PINE SEEDLINGS TO A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ACROSS ONTARIO. AND THERE WILL BE CEREMONIAL PLANTINGS OF WHITE PINE TREES AT QUEEN'S PARK AND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE PROVINCE TO MARK THIS SPECIAL DAY.

ALSO THIS YEAR, WE HAVE INTRODUCED A BICENTENNIAL MAP MARKING 200 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THIS PROVINCE. THE MAP SHOWS ONTARIO AS IT WAS IN THE YEAR 1784. IT HIGHLIGHTS SIGHTS AND EVENTS IN THE PROVINCE'S HISTORY. AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH, THE MAP COSTS \$3 AND CAN BE PURCHASED AT A VARIETY OF OUTLETS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, INCLUDING BREWER'S RETAIL STORES AND POST OFFICES.

ON AUGUST 6, WE WILL CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL IN OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS WITH FREE DAY USE. AND THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER, OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS WILL HOST A NUMBER OF SPECIAL EVENTS, COMMEMORATING OUR 200TH BIRTHDAY.

ALSO THIS SUMMER, THE WAKAMI WAILERS WILL TOUR ONTARIO WITH A SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL SHOW. THE WAILERS ARE FOUR YOUNG MNR PARKS EMPLOYEES FROM NORTHERN ONTARIO. THEY GOT TOGETHER FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN THEY WERE WORKING AT WAKAMI LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK, SOUTHEAST OF CHAPLEAU.

SINCE THEN, THEY'VE BEEN ENTERTAINING AUDIENCES IN OUR PARKS, CAMPGROUNDS AND SCHOOLS WITH THEIR SINGING, STORY-TELLING AND ENTERTAINMENT THAT FOCUSES ON THE TRADITION AND HISTORY OF WHITE PINE LOGGING ACROSS THIS PROVINCE.

ANOTHER SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL PROJECT IS PUBLICATION OF A BOOK ENTITLED "GEOLOGY AND MINERAL DEPOSITS OF THE SUDBURY STRUCTURE". THIS PROJECT INVOLVES MY MINISTRY'S ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA, AS WELL AS TWO COMPANIES, THREE UNIVERSITIES AND THREE PRIVATE CONSULTANTS. THE PUBLICATION IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN DECEMBER AND SHOULD PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO ONE OF THE MOST MINERAL-RICH REGIONS IN THE WORLD.

APART FROM THE BICENTENNIAL, THIS YEAR ALSO MARKS THE ESTABLISHMENT IN 1909 OF TWO WILDERNESS AREAS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ONTARIO/MINNESOTA BORDER. ONTARIO CREATED THE QUETICO FOREST RESERVE -- NOW QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK -- AND THE U.S. OPENED THE SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST. FOR 75 YEARS, WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO PRESERVE THESE UNSPOILED AREAS. THIS SUMMER, A SERIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS AT QUETICO WILL MARK THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY OF IMPORTANT AND CORDIAL INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

## SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT UPDATE

ONTARIO HAS CHANGED A LOT IN 200 YEARS, NEEDLESS TO SAY. BUT WE STILL BOAST SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NATURAL LANDSCAPE IN THE WORLD. AND OUR ECONOMY -- AN ECONOMY BASED HEAVILY ON OUR RESOURCE WEALTH -- REMAINS STRONG AND RESILIENT.

OUR LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO THE WISE MANAGEMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES ALSO REQUIRES THE SHORT-TERM EFFORTS OF THOUSANDS OF ONTARIO WORKERS. THIS IS WHERE OUR SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS -- OUR JOB CREATION EFFORTS AND SUMMER WORK PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH -- COME IN.

IN THE FALL OF 1981, I APPROACHED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM TO HELP THOUSANDS OF FORESTRY WORKERS IN THIS PROVINCE WHO HAD BEEN LAID OFF.

AT THE TIME I WAS LOOKING FOR FEDERAL HELP IN KEEPING THESE SKILLED WORKERS IN ONTARIO DURING TOUGH TIMES. I FELT WE NEEDED A SPECIAL EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE GOOD HEALTH OF OUR RESOURCE-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES DURING AN ECONOMIC SLUMP. I KNOW THIS WAS IMPORTANT AS A BRIDGE TO KEEP THIS VALUABLE POOL OF LABOR IN THOSE RESOURCE COMMUNITIES SO WORKERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE WHEN BETTER ECONOMIC TIMES RETURNED.



IN FEBRUARY 1982, ONTARIO AND OTTAWA JOINTLY ANNOUNCED THE ACCELERATED FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. THIS, ESSENTIALLY, WAS A BRIDGING MEASURE UNDER SECTION 38 OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT. IT ALLOWED US TO USE UI FUNDS, COMBINED WITH MONEY FROM THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT, TO CREATE TEMPORARY WORK FOR LAID-OFF FORESTRY WORKERS.

THE PROGRAM HAS NOW BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE AREAS OF PARKS, MINES, FISH AND WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES. AND THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA HAVE BEEN EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ALL INDIVIDUALS COLLECTING UI BENEFITS.

WHAT WE ARE DOING IS PUTTING THESE WORKERS BACK TO WORK. THE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS THEY RECEIVE WITH EXTRA EARNINGS AND BENEFITS.

IN FISCAL YEAR 1983-1984, 251 PROJECTS UNDER THE SECTION 38 PROGRAM WERE APPROVED THROUGHOUT ONTARIO. THESE INVOLVED 2,144 WORKERS SHARING A TOTAL OF 27,317 WEEKS OF WORK. TOTAL COST OF THESE PROJECTS, SHARED BETWEEN BILD AND EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION CANADA, WAS \$14.2-MILLION.

ALSO OF INTEREST IS OUR SUMMER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM. WE HAVE ALWAYS OFFERED WORTHWHILE JOB EXPERIENCES FOR ONTARIO'S YOUNG PEOPLE. AND OUR EFFORTS HAVE TAKEN ON A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT EMPHASIS ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT.

AS THE THRONE SPEECH STATED, "ECONOMIC RENEWAL WITHOUT MEANINGFUL WORK FOR OUR YOUNG WOULD BE A CRUEL ILLUSION".

THIS YEAR, THE MINISTRY'S GENERAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE 810 POSITIONS TO YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING SUMMER WORK THROUGH MAIN OFFICE AND OUR 47 DISTRICT OFFICES. WORK IN A VARIETY OF MNR PROGRAMS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANYWHERE FROM SIX TO 16 WEEKS. THIS SUMMER'S BUDGET OF \$1.6-MILLION WAS INCREASED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AN INCREASE IN THE PROVINCIAL MINIMUM WAGE THAT WENT INTO EFFECT ON MARCH 1.

ANOTHER 683 STUDENTS WILL FIND WORK THIS SUMMER THROUGH OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES' EXPERIENCE 84 PROGRAM. A TOTAL OF \$1.4-MILLION HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THIS PROGRAM, SPONSORED BY OUR 39 CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES. STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 24 WILL HELP PLAN NATURE TRAILS, BUILD DIKES ON STREAM BANKS, MONITOR FISH AND WILDLIFE MOVEMENTS, AND PLANT TREES AND RESTORE HISTORICAL SITES, AMONG OTHER PROJECTS. THE STUDENTS ARE EMPLOYED FOR ANYWHERE FROM SEVEN TO 23 WEEKS EACH.

ALSO OF INTEREST IS OUR JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM, WHICH TO DATE HAS EMPLOYED SOME 41,500 ONTARIO SECONDARY STUDENTS IN OUTDOOR PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. THE 1984 JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM IS EIGHT WEEKS LONG AND WILL PROVIDE OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES IN RESOURCE-RELATED WORK FOR 1,716 YOUNG ONTARIANS AT A COST OF \$5.1-MILLION.

UNEMPLOYED YOUNG PEOPLE, AGED 16 TO 24, WHO ARE NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL CAN ALSO BENEFIT FROM OUR WINTER EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS. WE HAVE THREE SUCH PROGRAMS, RUNNING FROM OCTOBER THROUGH MARCH FOR AN AVERAGE OF 12 WEEKS. THE FIRST IS OUR GENERAL WINTER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM, OFFERING NURSERY WORK, PARK CLEANUP AND MAINTENANCE AND CLERICAL WORK TO SOME 80 OUT-OF-WORK YOUNG PEOPLE.

A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR NATIVE YOUNG PEOPLE WILL ENGAGE THEM IN CONSTRUCTION WORK, OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE AND CLERICAL WORK AND OTHER DUTIES. AND OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES OFFER SHORT-TERM WINTER WORK TO ANOTHER 42 YOUNG PEOPLE: WORK THAT INCLUDES TRAIL DEVELOPMENT, STREAM REHABILITATION, WOODLOT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER CONSERVATION-RELATED TASKS.

THERE IS ALSO THE PROVINCE'S JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST AWARD PROGRAM. TWENTY-EIGHT STUDENTS ARE TAKING PART THIS YEAR IN THIS PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY MNR. IT IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSERVATION VALUES AND SKILLS IN TECHNICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN 16 TO 18 YEAR OLDS.

THIS YEAR'S STUDENT GROUPS AND LEADERS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE CATFISH CREEK, METRO TORONTO AND REGION, SAULT STE. MARIE REGION AND UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES.

OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS, BOTH WINTER AND SUMMER, GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NATURAL RESOURCES IN A TANGIBLE WAY. MANY OF OUR JUNIOR RANGERS, AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN TEMPORARY WORK PROJECTS AT MNR, RETURN IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS TO RESOURCE-RELATED WORK. IT IS SATISFYING TO KNOW THAT, THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS, WE HAVE OFFERED JOBS TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN THEY NEEDED THEM, AND AT THE SAME TIME KINDLED THEIR INTEREST IN OUR PROVINCE'S RESOURCES.

#### CROWN LAND RECREATION

LAST YEAR WAS A KEY YEAR IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ONTARIO'S CROWN LAND. WE MADE A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE USE OF OUR PUBLIC LAND BY NON-RESIDENTS. SO FAR, I CAN SAY CONFIDENTLY THAT EVERYTHING IS FALLING INTO PLACE.

CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH USER GROUPS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DRAFTING OF THOSE CHANGES. AND A DILIGENT APPROACH TO COMMUNICATING OUR IDEAS HAS HELPED A LOT OF PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

I APPOINTED AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY PAUL YAKABUSKI THAT HELD FOUR PUBLIC MEETINGS IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO JULY 21 AND 22 AND AUGUST 9 AND 10 OF 1983. THE MEETINGS WERE HELD IN KENORA, FORT FRANCES, DRYDEN AND SIOUX LOOKOUT.



MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED THESE MEETINGS, LISTENED TO THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES FOR CROWN LAND MANAGEMENT, AND DISCUSSED THE OPTIONS. THE MAJORITY ENDORSED A THREE-PART PROPOSAL THAT I PUT FORWARD EARLIER. NAMELY -- THAT NON-RESIDENTS SHOULD PAY TO CAMP ON CROWN LAND, CERTAIN SITES SHOULD BE PRIVATIZED AND CERTAIN AREAS ZONED TO PROHIBIT NON-RESIDENT CAMPING.

WE IN THIS PROVINCE ARE IN A FORTUNATE POSITION. ONTARIO IS ALMOST ONE MILLION SQUARE KILOMETRES IN SIZE. ALMOST 90 PER CENT OF THAT IS CROWN LAND. WE HAVE SOME OF THE BEST OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE WORLD. BUT WE MUST ALSO SHARE THIS WEALTH. IN PARTICULAR, WE MUST SHARE IT WITH SOME 15 MILLION OF OUR AMERICAN NEIGHBORS WHO LIVE WITHIN A DAY'S DRIVE OF OUR PROVINCIAL BORDER.

THE POTENTIAL FOR OVERUSE OF OUR RECREATIONAL LAND IS VERY REAL.

WE WANT TO SHARE THOSE RESOURCES, OF COURSE. RECREATIONAL LAND IS, AFTER ALL, MEANT TO BE ENJOYED. IT IS ALSO A PRIME SOURCE OF TOURISM REVENUE. BUT WE ALSO WANT TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROTECTING THIS LAND. OUR VISITORS MUST REALIZE THEY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN MAKING SURE THAT THE ONTARIO THEY LOVE TO VISIT CONTINUES TO BE WORTH VISITING.

WE HAVE, OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF NEW REGULATIONS AFFECTING RECREATIONAL USERS OF OUR CROWN LAND.

LAST FALL, WE ANNOUNCED NEW RULES AFFECTING ALL NON-RESIDENT ANGLERS FISHING THROUGHOUT ONTARIO. VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE CANADA WILL PAY \$20 THIS YEAR FOR OUR NEW 21-DAY ANGLING LICENCE, RENEWABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE-WEEK PERIOD FOR JUST \$10. OUR FOUR-DAY NON-RESIDENT ANGLING LICENCE WILL COST \$10, A SMALL INCREASE FROM THE OLD PRICE OF \$8. AND A SEASONAL LICENCE WILL COST \$30, UP FROM \$15. AN ENTIRE FAMILY WILL BE ABLE TO BUY A SEASONAL LICENCE FOR \$40.

THESE NEW RATES FOR NON-RESIDENT ANGLING LICENCES TOOK EFFECT THIS YEAR. CANADIAN VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE ONTARIO WILL PAY \$6.25 FOR AN ONTARIO FISHING LICENCE, UP SLIGHTLY FROM THE \$6 THEY USED TO PAY.

WE ALSO TOOK STEPS TO PROTECT CERTAIN SENSITIVE SPECIES OF FISH. SPECIAL STAMPS FOR ALL VISITORS TO ONTARIO -- CANADIANS AND NON-CANADIANS ALIKE -- TO ALLOW THEM TO FISH FOR MUSKELLUNGE AND LAKE TROUT WILL COST \$5 A SEASON.

STARTING LAST FALL, WE PUT INTO EFFECT NEW RULES FOR NON-RESIDENTS WHO COME TO NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO TO HUNT DEER AND BEAR.

AND THIS SUMMER WILL BE THE FIRST TIME WE IMPLEMENT OUR NEW RULES GOVERNING CAMPING BY NON-RESIDENTS ON CROWN LAND. BOTH THESE SETS OF CHANGES -- THE CAMPING, AND THE DEER AND BEAR HUNTING -- WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY INSIDE A PILOT STUDY AREA IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

THE PILOT STUDY AREA IS MADE UP OF SEVEN MNR DISTRICTS: KENORA, FORT FRANCES, SIOUX LOOKOUT, DRYDEN, RED LAKE, IGNACE AND ATIKOKAN.

THE CROWN LAND CAMPING RULES TOOK EFFECT THIS MAY 18TH. VISITORS WISHING TO CAMP ON CROWN LAND IN THE PILOT AREA WILL BE ASKED TO PAY A DAILY \$3 PERMIT FEE. A FAMILY WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 17 WILL BE ABLE TO CAMP FOR \$5 A DAY.

SOME AREAS INSIDE THE PILOT AREA WILL BE ZONED TO PROHIBIT NON-RESIDENT CAMPING. NON-RESIDENTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO GO TO COMMERCIAL FACILITIES OR PROVINCIAL PARKS NEARBY.

AS WELL, SOME SITES INSIDE THE PILOT AREA WILL BE DESIGNATED AND LEASED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BE RUN AS COMMERCIAL CAMPGROUNDS. WE DID THIS SO THAT WE COULD CONTROL CERTAIN POPULAR UNSUPERVISED CAMP SPOTS. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT THE AREAS HAVE SOME SUPERVISION, ARE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND ARE CONTROLLED AGAINST OVERCROWDING.

WHEN WE ANNOUNCED THESE CHANGES, WE EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE TRYING TO INCLUDE VISITORS TO THIS PROVINCE IN OUR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EQUATION. BUT AT FIRST MANY OF THOSE OUTSIDE ONTARIO -- PARTICULARLY PEOPLE IN THE U.S. BORDER STATES WHO MAKE HEAVY USE OF ONTARIO'S RECREATIONAL LAND -- DIDN'T SEE IT THAT WAY.

THEIR INITIAL RESPONSE WAS DISAPPOINTING. MANY AMERICAN SPORTS AND OUTDOORS WRITERS PORTRAYED US AS ANTI-AMERICAN. MANY AMERICAN HUNTING AND FISHING GROUPS PROTESTED WHAT THEY CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE PENALTIES AND ARGUED THAT THEY WERE BEING ASKED TO FOOT THE BILL FOR OUR OWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. IT SIMPLY WASN'T TRUE, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE HAD A COMMUNICATIONS JOB TO DO.

WE LAUNCHED A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN. I PERSONALLY MET WITH STATE LEGISLATORS AND TALKED TO A NUMBER OF U.S. JOURNALISTS. THROUGHOUT THE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING, MINISTRY STAFF ATTENDED SPORTS SHOWS IN BORDER STATES, WHERE WE SPOKE TO U.S. OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS AND EXPLAINED OUR POLICIES. WE DISTRIBUTED BROCHURES AND FACT SHEETS CONCERNING THE NEW CROWN LAND RECREATION RULES. I PERSONALLY WENT TO SPORTS SHOWS IN CLEVELAND AND MILWAUKEE AND SPENT SOME TIME AT THE MNR BOOTHS THERE MYSELF. OVERALL, THE RESPONSE WAS EXCELLENT.



WE DISCOVERED THAT IN MANY CASES, THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE NEW RULES WAS BASED ON MISINFORMATION. WHEN GIVEN THE FACTS, OUR AMERICAN NEIGHBORS WERE MORE THAN WILLING TO PAY A LITTLE MORE TO HELP US PRESERVE THE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAVE GROWN TO LOVE. MANY ASKED US WHY WE HAD WAITED SO LONG TO MAKE SUCH JUSTIFIABLE CHANGES.

ANGLING SEEMED TO BE THE MAIN SORE POINT, THE ONE THAT GAINED US THE MOST CRITICISM. WE TOLD OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS HOW MUCH ONTARIO TAXPAYERS INVEST IN MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING OUR FISHERY -- A FISHERY THAT REMAINS OPEN FOR EVERYONE'S USE AND ENJOYMENT.

WE TOLD THEM THAT NON-RESIDENT ANGLING LICENCES BROUGHT IN \$7.5-MILLION -- A FRACTION OF THE ADDITIONAL \$40-MILLION CONTRIBUTED BY ONTARIO TAXPAYERS TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROVINCIAL FISHERIES. WE POINTED OUT THE COMPARABLE COSTS OF OTHER RECREATIONAL PURSUITS -- TICKETS TO PROFESSIONAL BALL GAMES, THE PRICE OF GAS, THE COST OF EATING IN A DECENT RESTAURANT.

AND WE REMINDED THEM OF THE FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES ONTARIO OFFERS. WE REMINDED THEM THAT WHEN THEY COME HERE TO ENJOY OUR OUTDOOR LIFE, THEY GET EXCEPTIONAL VALUE FOR MONEY, EVEN AT THE NEW RATES. AND WHEN WE PUT IT THAT WAY AND THEY WERE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THE FACTS, OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS WITHDREW THEIR OPPOSITION ALMOST ENTIRELY.

THERE ARE MORE CHANGES IN THE WORKS, AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE HAVE HEARD MUCH CONCERN ABOUT NON-RESIDENT ANGLERS WHO FISH IN ONTARIO FROM A U.S. BASE -- ESPECIALLY IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO. FOR SOME TIME NOW, WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT SOMEHOW ENCOURAGING THESE VISITORS TO STAY IN ONTARIO AT NIGHT OR TO PAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF FISHING IN OUR WATERS.

WE ARE STILL NEGOTIATING OUR RULES GOVERNING BORDER WATERS WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. THE BORDER WATERS AREA TAKES IN LAKE OF THE WOODS, RAINY RIVER AND RAINY LAKE, AND THE LAKES AND RIVERS OF THAT REGION AS FAR NORTH AS HIGHWAY 11.

ONTARIO ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT NEW BORDER WATER FISHING RULES THIS SPRING. BUT THEN MINNESOTA APPROACHED US WITH A REQUEST FOR DEFERRAL OF THESE NEW REGULATIONS.

THE STATE'S COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, JOE ALEXANDER, WANTED TO MATCH ONTARIO'S INITIATIVES WITH SOME RESOURCE INITIATIVES ON MINNESOTA'S PART, INITIATIVES WHICH WERE DESIGNED TO PROTECT FISH POPULATIONS INSIDE THE BOUNDARY AREA.

AMONG THE THINGS PROMISED WERE THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE LIMITS FOR MINNESOTA ANGLERS, CLOSING THE WALLEYE SEASON DURING SPAWNING SEASON, AN EARLY BUYOUT OF THE MINNESOTA COMMERCIAL WALLEYE FISHERY IN LAKE OF THE WOODS AND RAINY LAKE, AND CROSS-DEPUTIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

BOTH MR. ALEXANDER AND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR MARLENE JOHNSON SENT LETTERS PROMISING THIS ACTION.

TO DATE, ONLY THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE LIMITS HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL IN THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MINNESOTA ARE CONTINUING. WE HAVE A JOINT U.S.-CANADIAN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE WORKING ON THESE ALLOCATION ISSUES. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO WORK THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND TO HAVE OUR NEW BOUNDARY WATERS POLICY IN PLACE BY JANUARY 1, 1985. BY WORKING IN TANDEM WITH MINNESOTA RESOURCE AUTHORITIES, WE FEEL THAT WE WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE A STRONGER SET OF RULES, RULES THAT WILL BE REINFORCED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER.

THE CHANGES IN OUR CROWN LAND REGULATIONS -- FROM FISHING TO CAMPING TO HUNTING -- ARE A DIRECT RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONCERNS VOICED OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS. AND THEY ARE THE PRODUCT OF EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATION -- WITH CONCERNED ONTARIANS, WITH CONCERNED U.S. SPORTSMEN AND, IN THE CASE OF OUR BORDER WATERS FISHING, WITH CONCERNED STATE OFFICIALS IN THE BORDER WATER STATES.

BY APPLYING MANY OF THE NEW RULES INSIDE A PILOT STUDY AREA, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GAUGE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND REMAIN FLEXIBLE TO ANY CHANGES. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO CONFINED THE NEW HUNTING AND CAMPING RULES TO THE PILOT AREA FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS.

MOST IMPORTANT, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IN THE LONG RUN, THE NEW RULES WILL PROVIDE A BETTER RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR ONTARIANS AND VISITORS ALIKE. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WILL INCREASE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT ACCRUE TO ONTARIO FROM THE USE OF OUR VALUABLE RESOURCES. BY PROTECTING OUR FISH AND WILDLIFE, WE CAN ENJOY OUR RECREATIONAL RESOURCES FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.

## FISHERIES

ONE OF THE MAJOR STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO ENHANCE OUR FISHERIES RESOURCE INVOLVES COMMERCIAL FISHING. WE ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH THE MODERNIZATION OF OUR COMMERCIAL FISHERY -- ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST FRESHWATER FISHERIES.

IN 1980, THEN-DEPUTY MINISTER BILL FOSTER APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER MAJOR ISSUES AND RECOMMEND A SIMPLER, MORE RATIONAL AND DIRECT SYSTEM OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT. THAT COMMITTEE INCLUDED COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN.



IN 1982, THE COMMITTEE REPORT WAS CIRCULATED AMONG COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND DISCUSSED IN DETAIL.

EARLY IN 1983, MY STAFF AND I REVIEWED THE RESULTING POLICY CHANGES AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WERE NEEDED IN PREPARATION FOR THE 1984 FISHING SEASON.

IN JULY OF 1983, WE REVIEWED THE PROPOSED CHANGES AND LAST FALL WE MET WITH EXECUTIVES OF THE ONTARIO COUNCIL OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES IN TORONTO AND ACROSS THE PROVINCE IN PLACES SUCH AS PORT DOVER AND PORT COLBORNE.

ALL PARTIES AGREED IT WAS TIME TO MOVE FORWARD WITH MODERNIZATION.

THE APPROACH WE HAVE TAKEN WILL FOCUS ON BETTER OVERALL MANAGEMENT OF OUR COMMERCIAL FISHERY, WITH QUOTAS AND SPECIFICS ABOUT THE SPECIES AND QUANTITIES PERMITTED SPELLED OUT ON EACH COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCE.

WE ARE TAKING A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE TASK OF MANAGING THE COMMERCIAL FISHING RESOURCE IN THIS PROVINCE. PREVIOUSLY, WE RELIED ON A NUMBER OF MEASURES AIMED AT LIMITING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FISHERY HARVEST. FOR INSTANCE, WE LIMITED THE NUMBER OF HOOKS ON A HOOKLINE AND THE LENGTH OF GILLNETS.

BUT THIS HAS NOT PROVIDED ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR OUR FISH STOCKS, AND, AS A RESULT, THE LIVELIHOOD OF OUR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN APPEARED TO BE THREATENED. OUR OLD METHODS OF REGULATING THE FISHERY ALSO CREATED A CUMBERSOME SET OF REGULATIONS.

SO WE CREATED A NEW APPROACH, ONE THAT CABINET ACCEPTED LAST FEBRUARY. THE NEW APPROACH HAS TWO IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES IN MIND -- CONSERVATION OF OUR FISH RESOURCE AND THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF OUR COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY.

WE ARE ASSIGNING INDIVIDUAL SPECIES QUOTAS TO ALL LICENSED FISHERMEN -- TO BE WRITTEN RIGHT ON THEIR LICENCES. THESE QUOTAS WILL BE BASED MAINLY ON PAST FISHING PERFORMANCE, AND WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY.

STARTING IN JANUARY OF 1985, WE WILL ALSO COLLECT ADVANCE LEVIES ON THE TRADITIONAL COMMERCIAL SPECIES, BASED ON THE QUANTITY OF FISH ALLOTTED TO AN INDIVIDUAL. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE COST OF THE BASIC LICENCE FEE. WE HOPE IT WILL RAISE MONEY TO OFFSET THE COST OF ADMINISTERING THE FISHERY. WE ALSO PROPOSE TO REDUCE LEVY CHARGES IN EXCHANGE FOR PARTICIPATION IN SELF-POLICING AND CO-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES. THIS ACCOMPLISHES TWO THINGS -- LESS REGULATION FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND INCREASED CONTROL OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE MINISTRY.

THE QUOTA SYSTEM WILL REDUCE COMPETITION AMONG FISHERMEN, SINCE QUOTAS WILL BE BASED ON THE BEST PREDICTION OF AVAILABLE FISH STOCKS. THE SYSTEM WILL ALSO RESULT IN MORE STABLE FISH POPULATIONS AND MORE RELIABLE SUPPLIES OF FISH TO THE MARKETPLACE.

FISHERMEN WILL BE REQUIRED TO RECORD THEIR FISH SALES, AND QUOTAS WILL BE REVIEWED EACH YEAR.

CHARGING THE LEVIES IN ADVANCE WILL, WE FEEL, ENSURE THAT THE FISHERY IS NOT LEFT IDLE, AND THAT THOSE WITH LICENCES USE THEM. IF PRODUCTION IS LESS THAN 60 PER CENT OF A SIMILAR FISHERY IN THE AREA FOR TWO YEARS -- WITHOUT A GOOD EXPLANATION -- THE LICENCE MAY BE CANCELLED. NO PRODUCTION OR TOTAL INACTIVITY FOR FOUR YEARS WOULD RESULT IN AUTOMATIC CANCELLATION, NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON.

WE WILL BE INCREASING OUR ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND AUDITING THE SALE OF FISH IN CONTROLLING QUOTAS.

MY MINISTRY -- IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS AND THE ONTARIO COUNCIL OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES -- WILL ALSO TEST A NEW SYSTEM FOR HANDLING ANY INCIDENTAL CATCH OF FISH. ALL INCIDENTALLY CAUGHT FISH WILL BE SOLD, AND THE MONEY TURNED OVER TO A FUND JOINTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE OFAH AND OCCF. THE MONEY WILL BE USED FOR FISH CONSERVATION PROJECTS -- SUCH AS STOCKING AND HABITAT REHABILITATION.

WHILE WE WILL BE REVOKING MANY OF THE LAWS THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY CONTROLLED THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY'S EFFICIENCY, WE WILL ENFORCE RIGOROUSLY THOSE DESIGNED TO CONTROL THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF FISH LANDED.

WE HAD A GREAT DEAL OF HELP AND SUPPORT FROM THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PLAN FOR MODERNIZATION. HOWEVER, THE NEW QUOTA SYSTEM HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT ITS CRITICS. THE INDUSTRY SEEMS TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED THAT WE CONSISTENTLY ENFORCE THE SYSTEM, THAT THE QUOTAS ACCURATELY REFLECT THE STOCKS OF FISH AVAILABLE, AND THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE QUOTA AMONG FISHERMEN IS MADE IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER.

WE HAVE ALSO PUT A NUMBER OF REVIEW COMMITTEES IN PLACE TO HEAR APPEALS BY COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL QUOTAS.

THE COMMITTEES -- EACH UNDER A CONCILIATOR SELECTED BY THE LOCAL MINISTRY OFFICE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ONTARIO COUNCIL OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES -- WILL DEAL WITH THOSE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN WHO FEEL THE METHOD USED TO DIVIDE THE TOTAL HARVEST IN A QUOTA AREA PLACES THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE TO OTHER FISHERMEN.



THE CONCILIATORS WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECTLY TO ME. I HAVE SAID IT BEFORE, AND I WILL REPEAT IT NOW -- WE WILL STRIVE TO BE FAIR AT ALL TIMES.

WE HAVE ALSO GIVEN THE ONTARIO COUNCIL OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES A COMMITMENT TO STEP UP ENFORCEMENT AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES. AND MY MINISTRY WILL INVEST IN COMPUTER CAPABILITY TO BETTER MONITOR FISH STOCKS.

THE NEW SYSTEM, ONCE IT IS IN PLACE, WILL OFFER MANY, MANY ADVANTAGES TO OUR PROVINCE'S COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN. YEARS FROM NOW, I BELIEVE 1985 WILL BE SEEN AS A TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF THIS PROVINCE'S COMMERCIAL FISHERY.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY FOR ITS CLOSE CONSULTATION THROUGHOUT THE PLANNING AND DRAFTING STAGES OF THE NEW SYSTEM. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS CLOSE CONSULTATION WILL CONTINUE AS WE MOVE TO IMPLEMENT OUR NEW SYSTEM.

THIS MINISTRY IS COMMITTED TO CONSERVING OUR VALUABLE FISHERIES RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. IN ADDITION TO PROTECTING OUR COMMERCIAL FISHERY AND GUARANTEEING ITS VIABILITY, WE ARE ALSO WORKING TO MAINTAIN A HIGH QUALITY OF SPORTS FISHING THROUGHOUT ONTARIO.

WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH DEVELOPMENT OF HATCHERY FACILITIES IN NORTH BAY, HARWOOD NEAR RICE LAKE, BLUE JAY CREEK ON MANITOULIN ISLAND AND THE LAKE SIMCOE AREA. WE PLAN TO EXPAND THE TARENTORUS TROUT REARING STATION IN NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO AND THE NORMANDALE FISH HATCHERY IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

WE ARE ALSO DEVELOPING GOVERNMENT PICKEREL FACILITIES IN EASTERN AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO AND IN THE LAKE NIPISSING AREA. THREE MAJOR STOCKING PROJECTS WILL BEGIN IN THIS FISCAL YEAR.

IN THE CARLETON PLACE, TWEED AND NAPANEE DISTRICTS IN EASTERN ONTARIO, WE WILL STOCK 200,000 PICKEREL FINGERLINGS IN NINE LAKES.

IN THE PARRY SOUND DISTRICT, WE WILL INCREASE STOCKING IN THE MOON RIVER FROM 50,000 FINGERLINGS A YEAR TO 200,000 ANNUALLY. THIS PROJECT WILL USE STOCK FROM THE SKELETON LAKE AND WHITE LAKE FISH CULTURE STATIONS. ANOTHER SEVEN RIVERS AND LAKES ALSO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR PICKEREL IN ALGONQUIN REGION.

THE YELLOW PICKEREL IS PROBABLY THE MOST VALUED SPORTS FISH SPECIES WE HAVE IN ONTARIO, ONE THAT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO OUR TOURIST TRADE.

THE PICKEREL HAS ALSO FACED HEAVY FISHING PRESSURE IN MANY AREAS OF THE PROVINCE. THESE THREE INITIATIVES WILL ENABLE US TO REAR LARGER, BETTER-QUALITY PICKEREL, FOR RESTOCKING THOSE WATERS WHERE HABITAT DETERIORATION OR FISHING PRESSURE HAVE DEGRADED STOCKS TO THE POINT WHERE THEY ARE UNABLE TO RECOVER BY THEMSELVES.

IN FUTURE, OUR STOCKING PRIORITIES WILL DEPEND MORE ON HOW INVOLVED LOCAL PEOPLE ARE IN THEIR FISHERY, THE AMOUNT OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT THAT'S BEING CARRIED OUT AND FURTHER LIMITS ON HARVEST.

OUR COMMUNITY FISHERIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS. THIS WILL BE ITS THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION, AND -- IN ANTICIPATION OF EVEN GREATER INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION BY SPORTS FISHERMEN AND OTHER GROUPS -- I HAVE DOUBLED THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE TO THE PROGRAM.

THE COMMUNITY FISHERIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LARGE EFFORT TO INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC TO WORK TOGETHER. EVERY DOLLAR WE CONTRIBUTE IS MORE THAN MATCHED BY THE VOLUNTEER LABOR AND DONATIONS FROM SPORTS CLUBS. THIS INCREASED FUNDING WILL ENABLE US TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM'S WORK TO OTHER GROUPS INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR SPORTS FISHERY.

IN THE PROGRAM'S FIRST YEAR, AN ESTIMATED 2,100 WORK-DAYS OF VOLUNTEER LABOR WERE PROVIDED FOR 22 APPROVED PROJECTS. IN 1984, 36 PROJECTS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND WILL PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED 2,500 WORK-DAYS.

DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, THERE WILL BE 12 PICKEREL CULTURE PROJECTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM. IN THE PARRY SOUND DISTRICT, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE A PROJECT UNDER WAY THAT INVOLVES THREE TO FOUR PONDS IN THE LORING-RESTOULE VACTIONLAND CAMPS. THIS GROUP EXPECTS TO RAISE 100,000 FINGERLINGS FOR STOCKING IN THE PICKEREL RIVER.

THE SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN WORKING WITH US FOR TWO YEARS, CREATING SPAWNING BEDS FOR BROWN TROUT AND GENERALLY IMPROVING THAT SPECIES' HABITAT IN THEIR AREA NEAR OWEN SOUND.

IN THE NAPANEE AREA, MEMBERS OF THE LOYALIST SPORT FISHING ASSOCIATION ARE EVALUATING THE MINISTRY'S BROWN TROUT STOCKING PROGRAM. CLUB MEMBERS ARE GATHERING DATA ON GROWTH RATES, FEEDING BEHAVIOR AND MIGRATION PATTERNS OF THE BROWN TROUT.



HERE ARE A FEW MORE EXAMPLES OF THE WAY IN WHICH OUR COMMUNITY FISHERIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM HAS HELPED IMPROVE LOCAL FISHERIES:

AT STAR LAKE, NEAR TIMMINS, THE PORCUPINE ROD AND GUN CLUB PLANS TO INTRODUCE A POPULATION OF SMALLMOUTH BASS INTO STAR AND LITTLE STAR LAKES. IT IS HOPED NATURALLY REPRODUCING POPULATIONS OF SMALLMOUTH BASS WILL RESULT IN THESE LAKES, IMPROVING FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGLERS.

AT MILLER'S PIT NEAR TIMMINS, THE TIMMINS GOLDEN NUGGETS CONSERVATION CLUB PLANS TO INTRODUCE A POPULATION OF AURORA TROUT. SINCE THIS SPECIES IS CURRENTLY MAINTAINED IN A HATCHERY, THIS WOULD BE THE ONLY NATURALLY REPRODUCING AURORA TROUT POPULATION IN THE PROVINCE.

AND AT HARRIET LAKE, THE SAME GROUP IS WORKING, WITH MNR ASSISTANCE, AT ESTABLISHING A NATURALLY REPRODUCING POPULATION OF WALLEYE.

IN GENERAL, INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM IS GROWING AMONG PRIVATE ANGLING AND CONSERVATION GROUPS. WE HAVE PUBLICIZED THE PROGRAM WITH PAMPHLETS, AN AUDIO-VISUAL SHOW AND EXHIBITS. MOST RECENTLY, MY MINISTRY'S FISHERIES SPECIALISTS HAVE PREPARED A NEW, DETAILED STREAM IMPROVEMENT MANUAL AND WILL MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO GROUPS INTERESTED IN THE COMMUNITY FISHERIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM.

MY MINISTRY WILL CONTINUE TO STOCK SALMON IN THE WESTERN BASIN OF LAKE ONTARIO. WE HAVE ALSO PLEDGED TO UNDERTAKE AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF PACIFIC SALMON IN LAKES HURON AND SUPERIOR IN ORDER TO FORM A MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THESE SPECIES.

WE ARE CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FOR REARING YEARLING WHITEFISH FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL STOCKING PROGRAM IN LAKE SIMCOE. LAST YEAR, IN RECOGNITION OF THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE, WE EXTENDED THIS PROGRAM. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO CONSTRUCT A PRODUCTION FACILITY ADJACENT TO LAKE SIMCOE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF WHITEFISH BY NOVEMBER OF 1986.

THIS SPRING, WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET VIRTUALLY ALL INLAND TROUT AND SPLAKE STOCKING REQUIREMENTS IN OUR EASTERN AND ALGONQUIN REGIONS, THANKS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HATCHERY FACILITIES. IN EASTERN ONTARIO INLAND WATERS, WE WILL BE DOUBLING THE AMOUNT OF STOCKING FOR LAKE TROUT AS WELL AS FOR A VARIETY OF OTHER SPECIES. AND IN ALGONQUIN REGION, WE WILL MAKE SIMILAR INCREASES IN LAKE TROUT STOCKING.

IN ALL, WE ARE LOOKING AT A MAJOR EXPANSION OF OUR EFFORTS TO MANAGE THIS PROVINCE'S SPORTS FISHERY. AND WE ARE DOING THIS WITH THE EXCELLENT CO-OPERATION OF AN EVER-GROWING NUMBER OF PRIVATE SPORTS CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS.

OUR ENTIRE EFFORT IN THIS AREA -- AND THE TOTAL SUCCESS OF THAT EFFORT -- UNDERLINES THE KIND OF PARTNERSHIP WE CAN ACHIEVE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. IT SHOWS THE KIND OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT WE CAN FOSTER FOR THE WISE HUSBANDRY OF THESE RESOURCES, AND THE WAY WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR MANAGEMENT GOALS AT A MINIMUM COST, SIMPLY BY WORKING TOGETHER.

### RECREATIONAL BOATING

ONTARIO PROVIDES A WONDERFUL SETTING FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING. WE HAVE 34,000 SQUARE MILES OF THE GREAT LAKES FOR CHALLENGING OPEN WATER SAILING, 396,000 INLAND LAKES, THOUSANDS OF MILES OF STREAMS, AND CANAL SYSTEMS, THE THIRTY THOUSAND ISLANDS AND THE NORTH CHANNEL OF LAKE HURON WHICH IS POSSIBLY THE BEST CRUISING AREA IN THE WORLD.

OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THESE WATERS. MORE THAN HALF OF ALL THE RECREATIONAL CRAFT REGISTERED IN CANADA ARE LOCATED IN THIS PROVINCE -- MORE THAN ONE MILLION BOATS, WITH A RETAIL VALUE OF MORE THAN A BILLION DOLLARS. EVERY YEAR, ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF ONTARIO RESIDENTS SPEND AT LEAST SOME TIME BOATING FOR PLEASURE.

THE MINISTRY HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE BOATING AND OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONG SOME OF THE PROVINCE'S BEST WATERWAYS. THIS WINTER I SIGNED A NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE CANADA-ONTARIO RIDEAU, TRENT, SEVERN CORRIDOR. THE AGREEMENT WILL IMPLEMENT 48 POLICIES FOR THE CORTS SYSTEM THAT IS VISITED BY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BOATERS EACH YEAR. THE POLICIES DEAL WITH POLLUTION CONTROL, WATER MANAGEMENT, LAND USE, TOURISM AND RECREATION AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION.

TO MAKE SURE BOATERS HAVE THEIR OWN LINE OF COMMUNICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT, THE MINISTRY HAS RECENTLY SET UP A NEW OFFICE OF RECREATIONAL BOATING. THIS OFFICE IS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FRANK MAHER, A SENIOR OFFICAL WITH LONG EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF RECREATIONAL BOATING.

THE OFFICE OF RECREATIONAL BOATING IS CO-ORDINATING THE ALLOCATION OF A TOTAL OF \$10.4-MILLION TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE SIX MAJOR MARINAS ACROSS THE PROVINCE -- AT PETERBOROUGH, MIDLAND, ORILLIA, THORNBURY, SARNIA AND ERIEAU WEST OF CHATHAM.

IT IS ALSO TRYING TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS OF BOAT LICENSING. THIS IS NOT A SIMPLE TASK; FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL JURISDICTIONS OVERLAP IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, MR. MAHER HAS BEEN WORKING WITH OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERAL COAST GUARD, TRYING TO CLARIFY THE LICENSING PROCEDURES LAID OUT IN THE CANADA SHIPPING ACT.

HE IS ALSO WORKING WITH THE COAST GUARD ON A NEW APPROACH TO BOATING REGULATIONS. THE PRESENT REGULATIONS WERE DEVELOPED IN THE 19TH CENTURY TO ADMINISTER COMMERCIAL SHIPPING; THEY'RE A BIT CUMBERSOME FOR TODAY'S RECREATIONAL BOATER. TOGETHER, ONTARIO AND OTTAWA SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SIMPLER LAWS AND CLEARER LANGUAGE.

THE PROBLEMS OF BOATING SAFETY ARE BECOMING MORE CRITICAL IN THIS PROVINCE. BOATING FATALITIES ARE ON THE RISE. ABOUT 100 TO 120 PEOPLE DIE IN BOATING ACCIDENTS IN ONTARIO EACH YEAR. AND 40 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE WHO DIE ARE IMPAIRED, ACCORDING TO THE LEGAL DEFINITION.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A MATTER THAT NEEDS GREATER PUBLIC EDUCATION. THE OFFICE OF RECREATIONAL BOATING IS PREPARING A PAMPHLET FOR THE 1984 BOATING SEASON THAT WILL TALK ABOUT PROBLEMS IN BOATING SAFETY AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO IMPROVE IT. THE BOOKLET WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH MARINAS, LIQUOR STORES, BREWERS' RETAIL OUTLETS AND SPORTING GOODS STORES.

MY MINISTRY HAS BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF CO-ORDINATING THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO RECREATIONAL BOATING. WE HAVE SET UP AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE THAT MEETS ONCE A MONTH TO REVIEW AND EXCHANGE INFORMATION. THIS INVOLVES REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRIES OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, TOURISM AND RECREATION, THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS OUR OWN MINISTRY.



THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE SURE THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO RECREATIONAL BOATING IS WELL CO-ORDINATED. IT WILL ALSO DEVELOP NEW IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

THE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE NEW OFFICE OF RECREATIONAL BOATING, AND TO THE MINISTRY'S PROGRAMS IN GENERAL, HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE. THE PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE LOVE THEIR WATERWAYS, AND TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THEM. THEY'RE INTENSELY INTERESTED IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE BOATING FACILITIES, TO INCREASE WATER SAFETY AND TO SIMPLIFY REGULATIONS.

### PROVINCIAL PARKS

WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING OUR FINE PROVINCIAL PARKS SYSTEM. OUR LAND USE GUIDELINES IDENTIFIED 155 CANDIDATES FOR PROVINCIAL PARK STATUS. WHEN THE GUIDELINES WERE RELEASED LAST JUNE, CABINET HAD ALREADY APPROVED SIX OF THE 155 AS WILDERNESS PARKS. IN ADDITION, 35 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, 25 WATERWAY, 74 NATURE RESERVES, 12 RECREATION AND THREE HISTORICAL PARKS WERE NAMED AS PARK CANDIDATES OUT OF AN ORIGINAL LIST OF SOME 245 POSSIBILITIES.

WE ARE NOW TRYING TO SPEED UP THE REGULATION OF THE PARK CANDIDATES. WE ARE DOING THIS SO THAT THESE AREAS MAY BE PUT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE PROVINCIAL PARKS ACT FOR MAINTENANCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER PURPOSES.

MY MINISTRY'S PARKS BRANCH HAS CREATED SEVEN GROUPS OF 15 TO 20 PARKS EACH AND RANKED THEM ACCORDING TO THEIR PRIORITY FOR REGULATION. SURVEYS FOR ONE PACKAGE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, AND SURVEYS FOR A SECOND ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY. BETWEEN 30 AND 40 OF THE 155 PARK CANDIDATES ARE THEREFORE IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING PROVINCIAL PARKS.

DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL SUMMER, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO US AT THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES THAT OUR PROVINCIAL PARKS PROVIDE A HAVEN FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL USERS.

THIS YEAR, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WE WILL BE CALLING ON THE CO-OPERATION OF EVERYONE WHO VISITS OUR PARKS IN CONTROLLING NOISE LEVELS AND -- FOR A PORTION OF THE SUMMER IN SOME PARKS -- IN KEEPING ALCOHOL OUT OF THE PARKS. BOTH THESE MEASURES HAVE HAD MUCH SUCCESS IN PREVIOUS YEARS AS THEY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL PARK USERS.

IN THE ALGONQUIN REGION, ALCOHOL HAS BEEN BANNED FROM USE IN KILLBEAR AND ARROWHEAD PARKS BETWEEN MAY 11 AND MAY 21. DURING THE SAME PERIOD, 10 PROVINCIAL PARKS IN THE CENTRAL REGION -- INCLUDING, FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR, AWENDA AND SERPENT MOUNDS -- WILL HAVE ALCOHOL BANS. ALSO STARTING MAY 11, SEVEN PARKS IN THE EASTERN REGION WILL HAVE ALCOHOL BANS IMPOSED.

OUR RECENT EFFORTS TO CONTROL UNNECESSARY NOISE IN OUR PARKS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THIS YEAR, AGAIN, ALL OUR PARKS WILL BE ENCOURAGING PARK USERS TO ENJOY ONTARIO'S GREAT OUT-OF-DOORS -- WITHOUT DISTURBING OTHERS -- OR FACE EVICTION FROM THE PARK.

WE HAVE ONE OF THE FINEST SYSTEMS OF PARKS ON THE CONTINENT. OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP THOSE PARKS SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FOR ALL USERS ARE MEETING WITH SUCCESS AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THESE EFFORTS.

### WILDLIFE

OUR EFFORTS TO CONTROL MOOSE HUNTING IN ONTARIO -- INTRODUCED LAST FALL -- ARE ALSO MEETING WITH SUCCESS. THE SELECTIVE MOOSE HARVEST WAS A STRONG MEASURE, BUT A NECESSARY ONE. OVERHARVESTING, PREDATION, POACHING AND THE REDUCTION OF NATURAL HABITAT WERE STARTING TO REDUCE THE MOOSE POPULATION IN THE PROVINCE, AND CHANGES IN THE LENGTH AND TIMING OF THE HUNTING SEASON WEREN'T EFFECTIVE IN REVERSING THE TREND.

THE MINISTRY HAS SOME CLEAR GOALS IN MIND: A DOUBLING OF THE MOOSE POPULATION BY THE YEAR 2000, CONTINUED OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOOSE HUNTERS, AND THE GREATEST POSSIBLE ECONOMIC RETURN FOR ONTARIO CITIZENS. THE NEW CONTROLS ARE DESIGNED TO MEET THOSE GOALS.

THERE WERE SOME INITIAL PROBLEMS IN THE ALLOCATION OF MOOSE HUNTING TAGS, BUT THEY WERE OVERCOME. JUDGING BY THE RESPONSE OF MOST HUNTERS, RESORT OPERATORS, OUTFITTERS AND WILDLIFE MANAGERS, THE MOOSE HUNT CONTROLS ARE DOING WHAT THEY WERE DESIGNED TO DO.

WE'VE GONE TO SOME LENGTHS TO TALK ABOUT THE CONTROLS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THEM. AFTER THE FIRST SEASON, WE SOUGHT SUGGESTIONS FROM HUNTERS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

WE HELD OPEN FORUMS IN TIMMINS, SUDBURY, IROQUOIS FALLS AND THUNDER BAY. OTHER FORUMS IN THUNDER BAY AND SUDBURY WERE ORGANIZED TO TALK ABOUT THOSE ASPECTS OF THE SELECTIVE HARVEST THAT CONCERN TOURIST OUTFITTERS, WHO ARE ALLOCATED 10 PER CENT OF THE HARVEST.

IN RESPONSE TO THESE SUGGESTIONS, WE HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES IN THE PROGRAM FOR NEXT SEASON.

FROM NOW ON, ALL APPLICANTS FOR A COW OR BULL TAG MUST BUY A MOOSE HUNTING LICENCE BEFORE THEY ENTER THE TAG DRAW. THE APPLICANTS WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT SELECTED IN THIS TAG DRAW MAY HUNT ONLY CALVES: THESE ARE HARDER TO HUNT THAN ADULT ANIMALS, AND THE CALF POPULATION CAN WITHSTAND MORE HUNTING PRESSURE.

HUNTERS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE A TAG IN THE COMPUTER DRAW LAST YEAR WILL BE GIVEN PREFERRED TREATMENT THIS TIME. THE APPLICANTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO POOLS -- ONE FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN LAST YEAR'S DRAW, AND ONE FOR THOSE WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR OR WHO ARE APPLYING FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SEASON.

THIS YEAR, HUNTERS APPLYING FOR TAGS CAN SPECIFY TWO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS WHERE THEY WISH TO HUNT. OF COURSE, DEMAND VARIES FROM ONE PART OF THE PROVINCE TO ANOTHER.

IN SOME PARTS OF THE PROVINCE LAST SEASON, HUNTING PRESSURE WAS RELATIVELY LOW.

IN 12 OF THE 51 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO, ALMOST EVERY APPLICANT RECEIVED A TAG. IN 24 OF THESE NORTHERN WMUs -- OR ALMOST HALF -- THERE WERE ENOUGH TAGS TO SATISFY ONE APPLICANT IN TWO.

HUNTERS WHO WANT TO INCREASE THEIR CHANCES OF BEING ISSUED A TAG CAN CONSULT THE MINISTRY'S MOOSE HUNTER'S HANDBOOK TO FIND UNITS WHERE MOST OR ALL APPLICANTS WERE SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR. THE OBJECT HERE IS TO EVEN OUT THE PRESSURE ON THE MOOSE POPULATION ACROSS THE PROVINCE, AND TO SATISFY AS MANY HUNTERS AS POSSIBLE.



AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, TAGS WILL GO FIRST TO HUNTERS WHO ENTERED THE DRAW LAST YEAR BUT DID NOT RECEIVE TAGS. IF THERE ARE TAGS STILL AVAILABLE AFTER THAT IS DONE, NAMES WILL THEN BE DRAWN FROM THE SECOND POOL -- HUNTERS WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL LAST YEAR, OR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS. THERE WILL BE ALMOST 50,000 TAGS AVAILABLE THIS YEAR.

SINCE THERE WAS NO SEASON IN WMU 47-63 LAST YEAR, THERE WILL BE NO PREFERRED POOL IN THESE DRAWS. HUNTERS WILL BE SELECTED AT RANDOM BY THE COMPUTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DRAW WAS LAST WEEK, AND APPLICATIONS ARE BEING PROCESSED NOW. WE EXPECT TO HOLD THE DRAW IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH, AND WE WILL ADVISE APPLICANTS BY MAIL.

WINTER MOOSE POPULATION SURVEYS WERE CARRIED OUT IN NEARLY ONE HALF OF THE WMUS IN THE MOOSE RANGE THIS YEAR. WE ARE STILL ANALYSING THE RESULTS, BUT EARLY INDICATIONS SHOW THAT IN SOME AREAS, AT LEAST, THE NUMBER OF MOOSE SEEMS TO BE UP.

THE PRELIMINARY HARVEST ESTIMATE FOR 1983 IS 9,500 ANIMALS, DOWN FROM 10,700 IN 1982. THIS WAS IN SPITE OF A PROBLEM WITH THE COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE DRAW, WHICH, AS YOU MAY RECALL, LED US TO ISSUE EXTRA TAGS.

CHANGES WE MADE IN THE LICENSING SYSTEM THAT WERE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE COW POPULATION HAVE CLEARLY WORKED. IN 1982, 38 PER CENT OF THE HARVEST WAS MADE UP OF COWS. IN 1983, THAT WAS DOWN TO ABOUT 23 PER CENT. THE PERCENTAGE OF BULLS INCREASED FROM 46 PER CENT IN 1982 TO ABOUT 60 PER CENT IN 1983. THIS IS A MUCH MORE DESIRABLE BALANCE, AND SHOULD ENSURE THE GROWTH OF THE MOOSE POPULATION IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

BY AND LARGE, THE CONTROL PROGRAM HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED, AND IS WORKING FAIRLY AND EFFICIENTLY. THERE WERE SOME REPORTED INCIDENTS LAST FALL IN WHICH LICENCES ALLOCATED TO TOURIST OUTFITTERS WERE SOLD TO PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT REGISTERED GUESTS OF THE OUTFITTERS. IF THIS WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, IT WOULD UNDERMINE THE PROGRAM. SO OUTFITTERS HAVE BEEN WARNED TO MONITOR THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE TOURIST ALLOCATION OF TAGS VERY CLOSELY.

SELECTIVE HARVEST IN THE DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM HAS BEEN A DEFINITE SUCCESS. THE SELECTIVE HARVEST PROGRAM WE BEGAN IN 1980 IS WORKING WELL. THE HERD IS INCREASING, AND HUNTERS HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE PROGRAM. WE'VE ALSO BEEN PAYING A LOT OF ATTENTION TO HABITAT IMPROVEMENT, WINTER FEEDING AND THE CONTROL OF SOME PREDATORS IN SOME PARTS OF THE PROVINCE. THESE MEASURES ARE ALSO PROVING EFFECTIVE.

WE ARE NOW TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO THE MANAGEMENT OF BLACK BEAR, AND WE HOPE TO INTRODUCE A REVISED PROGRAM THIS FALL. THE EMPHASIS WILL BE ON CONSERVATION OF AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT BIG GAME ANIMAL AS WELL AS CONTROL OF NUISANCE BEARS.

WE THINK THAT LICENSING, HARVESTING CONTROLS, AND AN EFFORT TO GATHER MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE BEAR POPULATION IN THE PROVINCE WILL ENSURE THE SURVIVAL AND GROWTH OF THIS SPECIES. WE ALSO THINK THAT AN INCREASED EFFORT AT DISSEMINATING INFORMATION WILL REDUCE SAFETY HAZARDS AND PROPERTY DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH NUISANCE BEARS.

WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT PROVIDING DETAILED INFORMATION IS THE KEY TO MANY THINGS -- ESPECIALLY HUNTING SAFETY. THIS IS WHY I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT WE WILL BE RELEASING A 304-PAGE HUNTER'S GUIDE THIS SUMMER. IT INCLUDES DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT HUNTING ETHICS, THE ROLE OF THE HUNTER AND HUNTING TECHNIQUES. IT ALSO HAS SECTIONS ON WILDLIFE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT, SURVIVAL, HYPOTHERMIA, FIRST AID AND PHYSICAL FITNESS.

THE GUIDE IS BASED ON MANUALS PREPARED BY THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA AND THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED AS A CO-OPERATIVE VENTURE BY THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS. THE PRINTING AGREEMENT WITH OFAH IS SIMILAR TO ONE THAT HAS BEEN IN OPERATION WITH THE ONTARIO TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION FOR TWO YEARS.

THIS GUIDE IS JUST ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE HUNTING AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE IN ONTARIO. I THINK WE HAVE ALREADY PROVEN HOW MUCH WE CARE THROUGH OUR HUNTER EDUCATION TRAINING.

OF COURSE, THERE'S MORE TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT THAN HUNTING.

ONTARIO HAS LONG BEEN A LEADER IN NONGAME INITIATIVES. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR WELCOMES A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS THAT DEAL WITH NONGAME ANIMALS.

FOR INSTANCE, THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND IS HELPING US DETERMINE WHICH SPECIES MAY BE ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION -- SOMETHING THAT IS ALWAYS A MAJOR TASK.

AND WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN OUR PEREGRINE FALCON REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM. LAST SUMMER, UPPER CANADA COLLEGE OFFERED FACILITIES AND STAFF TIME FOR A REINTRODUCTION PROJECT. THIS YEAR, AN INSURANCE COMPANY IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO IS OFFERING THE SAME ASSISTANCE.

BOTH SPORTSMEN AND NATURALISTS ALIKE SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS THIS SPRING TO RE-ESTABLISH WILD TURKEY FLOCKS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO. A PRIVATE FOUNDATION WAS ESTABLISHED TO PARTLY DEFRAY THE COST OF TRANSPORTING THE BIRDS AND CONDUCTING RESEARCH INTO HOW WELL THEY ARE DOING IN ONTARIO HABITAT.

MICHIGAN OFFERED THE WILD TURKEYS FOR THIS RE-ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAM AFTER WE AGREED TO PROVIDE MOOSE FROM AREAS OF ONTARIO THAT ARE NOT HUNTED. MICHIGAN WILL TRANSPORT THE MOOSE AT THEIR EXPENSE.

## WETLANDS

OF COURSE, JUST AS SOME ANIMAL POPULATIONS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS UNDER PRESSURE, SO CAN SOME KINDS OF LAND. AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY MOVED TO STEM THE LOSS OF ONE OF THE PROVINCE'S MOST VALUED TERRAINS: OUR WETLANDS.

AND AGAIN, WE ARE COUNTING ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE WETLANDS.

AT ONE TIME, ONTARIO HAD ALMOST 50 MILLION HECTARES OF WETLANDS, TWO MILLION OF THEM IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO. WETLANDS ARE AREAS COVERED PERMANENTLY OR SEASONALLY WITH STANDING WATER. THEY INCLUDE SWAMPS, MARSHES, BOGS OR FENS.

WETLANDS ARE USEFUL, AS WELL AS BEAUTIFUL. THEY MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY. THEY HELP CONTROL FLOODING. THEY PROVIDE A RICH HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, WHICH, IN TURN, CONTRIBUTE VERY SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE PROVINCE, FROM HUNTING, FISHING AND OTHER RECREATIONAL USES LIKE BIRD-WATCHING.



ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE WETLANDS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO HAVE NOW BEEN DRAINED OR SERIOUSLY ALTERED, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. IN SOME CASES, IT WAS TO PROVIDE LAND FOR HOUSING OR FARMING, IN OTHERS IT WAS TO PROTECT A SHORELINE. THE TREND IS QUITE CLEAR, AND IT MUST BE CONTROLLED.

IN 1980, THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SET OUT TO EVALUATE THE PROBLEM AND TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH IT.

MY MINISTRY RELEASED A DISCUSSION PAPER IN SEPTEMBER 1981 THAT EXPLORED A NUMBER OF APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEMS OF ONTARIO'S WETLANDS, AND INVITED PUBLIC RESPONSE. AS A RESULT, THE MINISTRY RECEIVED SOME 500 WRITTEN COMMENTS AND BRIEFS.

ALSO, IN SEPTEMBER 1981, THE MINISTRY SPONSORED THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS WETLANDS CONFERENCE IN TORONTO. MINISTRY STAFF WERE AT THIS CONFERENCE, AND SOME CONTRIBUTED PAPERS.

FROM MARCH 1981 TO MARCH 1984, A JOINT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE -- WORKING WITH THE FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS AND DUCKS UNLIMITED -- DEVELOPED A PROVINCIAL EVALUATION SYSTEM. THIS SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO HELP GOVERNMENTS AND PLANNERS ASSESS THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF WETLANDS IN THEIR AREAS -- FROM BOTH ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL POINTS OF VIEW.

IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, THAT PROVINCIAL EVALUATION SYSTEM WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. IT WILL BE USED AS A TOOL IN PART OF THE FIRST PHASE OF ONTARIO'S NEW POLICY TO MANAGE AND PROTECT THE PROVINCIAL WETLANDS.

ESSENTIALLY, WE HAVE EMBARKED ON AN INVENTORY OF ONTARIO'S WETLANDS. UNDER THE PROVINCIAL EVALUATION SYSTEM, WETLANDS WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND RANKED INTO SEVEN CLASSES, ACCORDING TO THEIR ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUE. THIS PROCESS WILL HELP LOCAL OFFICIALS ASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WETLANDS IN THEIR AREAS. IT WILL ALSO ASSIST CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES IN MANAGING WATERSHEDS AND MEETING OTHER OBJECTIVES, AND WILL HELP THE PROVINCE IN OVERALL PLANNING.

THERE WILL BE CAREFUL TESTING AND CONSULTATION WITH MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROCESS LEADING TO A POLICY STATEMENT UNDER THE PROVINCIAL PLANNING ACT. ONTARIO HAS MADE A CLEAR BEGINNING UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PLANNING ACT IN THE IMPORTANT TASK OF CONSERVING AND PROTECTING SOME OF THE MOST USEFUL LANDS IN THE PROVINCE.

WETLANDS ARE ALSO A SOURCE OF MANY VALUABLE RESOURCE PRODUCTS, SUCH AS FUR, WOOD AND WILD RICE. THE MAJOR STANDS OF WILD RICE ARE IN WETLANDS IN THE NORTHWEST. AS YOU KNOW THE MINISTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE HARVESTING OF WILD RICE ON ALL CROWN LANDS.

IN THE KENORA AND DRYDEN ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS -- AND IN SEVERAL SMALLER AREAS IN RED LAKE, SIOUX LOOKOUT, THUNDER BAY AND FORT FRANCES -- THE MINISTRY HAS RESTRICTED WILD RICE HARVESTING RIGHTS TO VARIOUS INDIAN BANDS. IN MAY 1978, THE PROVINCE ESTABLISHED A FIVE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE GRANTING OF ANY ADDITIONAL LICENCES TO HARVEST WILD RICE TO NON-INDIAN PEOPLE -- INCLUDING NON-STATUS INDIANS AND METIS -- IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MORATORIUM WAS TO GIVE THE INDIAN PEOPLE A CHANCE TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITION IN THE WILD RICE INDUSTRY. ALONG WITH THE MORATORIUM, ONTARIO HAS PROVIDED THE INDIAN PEOPLE WITH VARIOUS FORMS OF TECHNICAL AND MARKETING ASSISTANCE.

THE ESTABLISHED TIME PERIOD OF THE MORATORIUM HAS NOW EXPIRED. HOWEVER, AT THE REQUEST OF GRAND COUNCIL TREATY No. 3, THE PROVINCE HAS AGREED TO TAKE NO ACTION IN THIS AREA DURING OUR CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PROVINCE AND GRAND COUNCIL TREATY No. 3. GRAND COUNCIL TREATY No. 3 BELIEVES THAT THE INDIANS HAVE A SPECIAL RIGHT TO HARVEST WILD RICE IN THIS AREA; THE PROVINCE BELIEVES THAT THE RESOURCE IS TO BE MANAGED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO. WE THINK THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO A FAIR RESOLUTION WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME PERIOD.

## CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

ONTARIO'S 39 CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO BE THE KEY TO WATER MANAGEMENT IN ONTARIO. FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS, THEY HAVE BEEN PRACTISING THE KIND OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN USER GROUPS AND GOVERNMENT THAT WE ARE NOW, IN THE 80s, TRYING TO ACHIEVE IN SO MANY OTHER RESOURCE AREAS.

OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES PROVIDE SOME OF THE BEST RECREATIONAL AREAS IN THE PROVINCE. OUR CHILDREN TOBOGGAN DOWN THEIR HILLS, FAMILIES PICNIC ON THEIR GROUNDS. BUT WE SHOULD NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THEIR BASIC PURPOSE: FLOOD PROTECTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT.

LIKE LAND USE PLANNING, FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF THIS PROVINCE. BUT IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH, PARTLY BECAUSE OF ITS COMPLEXITY, IS TAKING A LONG TIME TO RESOLVE.

WE HERE IN ONTARIO HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED LATELY THE SEVERE FLOODING OF MANY OTHER AREAS IN NORTH AMERICA -- AREAS SUCH AS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND B.C. COAST.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN IMMUNE TO FLOODING PROBLEMS BUT -- PERHAPS BECAUSE SUCH PROBLEMS HAVE NOT TOUCHED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OUR CITIZENS OR BEEN OF A SUFFICIENTLY SEVERE AND FREQUENT NATURE -- FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT HAS ONLY RECENTLY BECOME A TOPIC OF HEATED PUBLIC DEBATE IN SOME AREAS OF OUR PROVINCE.

THIS MINISTRY CONSIDERS THE ISSUE OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT A HIGH PRIORITY. IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO RESOLVE MANY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN SENSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FLOOD LANDS. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO DEVISE -- WITH FULL PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC DEBATE -- A POLICY FOR FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT THAT WILL MEET THIS PROVINCE'S NEEDS WELL INTO THE FUTURE.

I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT WE ARE NEARING THE END OF OUR WORK. THAT WORK BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1982 WHEN WE ISSUED BASIC POLICIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FLOODPLAIN LANDS. SOME PEOPLE FELT AT THAT TIME THAT THE POLICIES WERE ALREADY OUTDATED, AND DIDN'T PROPERLY REFLECT THE ACCUMULATION OF SOME 15 OR 20 YEARS OF THINKING ON THE ISSUE. THE LAST TIME THE PUBLIC HAD A CHANCE TO OFFER SOME INPUT INTO THESE POLICIES HAD BEEN IN 1977, WHEN THE MINISTRY UNDERTOOK A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC REVIEW OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT. THERE WAS A DEMAND FOR A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE ISSUES IN A PUBLIC FORUM.



LAST SEPTEMBER, I NAMED AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE, HEADED BY JAMES TAYLOR, THE MEMBER FOR PRINCE EDWARD-LENNOX, TO LOOK AT THE AREA OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT. THE SEVEN-MEMBER COMMITTEE HELD PUBLIC HEARINGS IN 15 CENTRES ACROSS THE PROVINCE, AND RECEIVED 300 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS. THE HEARINGS ENDED ON OCTOBER 26, AND ON MARCH 29 OF THIS YEAR, I TABLED THE REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE IN THE LEGISLATURE. IT CONTAINED 13 RECOMMENDATIONS.

THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE WIDE-RANGING AND CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR ONTARIO.

ONE RECOMMENDATION PROPOSES THAT A NEW MINIMUM STANDARD FOR FLOOD PROTECTION BE ESTABLISHED IN ONTARIO: AREAS DESIGNATED AS FLOODPLAINS WOULD BE PROTECTED AGAINST FLOODING THAT HAS A PROBABILITY OF OCCURRING ONCE EVERY 100 YEARS.

WHILE I SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION IN PRINCIPLE, I HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT WE WILL NOT SUPPORT THE LOWERING OF FLOODPLAIN CRITERIA IN ANY PART OF THE PROVINCE WHERE THE PAST HISTORY OF FLOODING INDICATES A NEED FOR HIGHER CRITERIA.

SECONDLY, WE WOULD SUPPORT CHANGES TO OUR EXISTING CRITERIA ONLY WITH THE CONSENT OF THE MAJORITY OF MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN A CERTAIN WATERSHED.

I HAVE SENT COPIES OF THE TAYLOR COMMITTEE REPORT TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES, TO THE 39 CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES AND TO ALL THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT SUBMITTED BRIEFS TO THE COMMITTEE. THE REPORT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH MY MINISTRY'S DISTRICT AND REGIONAL OFFICES.

I ASKED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE REPORT WITHIN 90 DAYS OF ITS RELEASE -- WHICH GIVES US UNTIL THE END OF JUNE TO RECEIVE REACTION.

ONCE THOSE COMMENTS ARE IN, I EXPECT THE PROPOSED NEW POLICY WILL BE DRAFTED QUICKLY. A FINAL PROVINCIAL FLOODPLAIN POLICY WILL BE DEVELOPED AND ISSUED UNDER SECTION 3.2 OF THE PLANNING ACT.

BUT BEFORE A FINAL POLICY IS DECIDED ON, WE MUST DEAL WITH A NUMBER OF CRITICAL ISSUES. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT MUST BE DEFINED. THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT MUST BE CLARIFIED.

WE HAVE TO SET DOWN THE CRITERIA WITHIN WHICH DECISIONS CAN BE MADE IN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT -- CRITERIA THAT WOULD ALLOW SOME FLEXIBILITY WITHIN CERTAIN DEFINED LIMITS. AND FINALLY, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THERE IS A COMMITMENT AMONG OUR TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE IN THE FIELD TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FLOODPLAIN ISSUES AND PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF ANY PROGRAMS WE IMPLEMENT.

WE HAVE ALSO PUT FORWARD A NUMBER OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WAY OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ARE ADMINISTERED AND THE METHODS THEY USE TO REACH DECISIONS.

IN RECENT YEARS, SEVERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM HAVING THEIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES AS THE MAIN DECISION-MAKING BODIES. THEY ARE INVOLVING A BROADER BASE OF THEIR MEMBERS IN DECISIONS RELATED TO THEIR ONGOING OPERATIONS. THIS, I FEEL, IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND I WILL BE ENCOURAGING ALL OF OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO PURSUE THIS SAME APPROACH, WHERE POSSIBLE.

OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS OF HOW OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES WORK, WHAT THEY DO AND HOW THEY MAKE DECISIONS.

TO THAT END, I WILL BE ASKING THE AUTHORITIES TO MODIFY SOME OF THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. SOME PROPOSALS INCLUDE: ASKING THE AUTHORITIES TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE AND AGENDAS OF THEIR MEETINGS TO THEIR MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PUBLIC; MAKING MINUTES OF THOSE MEETINGS AVAILABLE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES; AND IMPROVING THE PUBLIC'S ACCESS TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS ENGINEERING REPORTS AND MAPS.

THESE CHANGES IN THE WAY OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES OPERATE WILL, I BELIEVE, MAKE THEM EVEN MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THEY WORK AND INCREASE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE AUTHORITIES' WORK. THE MORE INVOLVED PEOPLE ARE IN THE ONGOING WORK OF OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES, THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR ALL OF US TO SOLVE THE CRITICAL WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES FACING THIS PROVINCE.

### WATER MANAGEMENT

THIS IS ALL PART OF THE HIGH PRIORITY MY MINISTRY HAS PLACED ON ITS ROLE IN WATER MANAGEMENT IN ONTARIO. WHILE ONTARIO'S FLOODING PROBLEMS HAVE NOT BEEN AS SEVERE AS THOSE WITNESSED RECENTLY IN PARTS OF THE U.S., WE CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE OUR GOOD FORTUNE FOR GRANTED. NOR CAN WE AFFORD TO TAKE OUR ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF WATER FOR GRANTED -- NOT WITHOUT DISASTROUS RESULTS.

WHEN WE COULD FILL UP THE TANK OF AN EIGHT-CYLINDER CAR WITH GAS FOR FIVE DOLLARS, NO ONE THOUGHT ABOUT AN ENERGY CRUNCH OR WORRIED MUCH ABOUT ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS. LIVING ON THE SHORES OF THE GREAT LAKES AS WE DO HERE IN ONTARIO, IT IS UNLIKELY OUR RESIDENTS GIVE MUCH THOUGHT TO THE POLITICS OF WATER AND THE PROBLEMS OF WATER MANAGEMENT.

YET THESE DAYS GREAT LAKES WATER IS SEEN AS A WELCOME AND MUCH NEEDED OASIS BY SOME WATER-HUNGRY AMERICAN STATES. THERE ARE FARMERS IN THE MIDWEST WHO WANT TO USE IT FOR IRRIGATION AND WESTERN COAL PRODUCERS WHO WANT TO MIX IT WITH COAL FOR TRANSPORTATION IN COAL SLURRY PIPELINES.

WE IN ONTARIO HAVE MADE IT CLEAR WE WILL NOT SUPPORT INDISCRIMATE DIVERSIONS OF WATERS FROM THE GREAT LAKES FOR ANY REASON. STILL THE PRESSURE MOUNTS. WE MUST WITHSTAND THIS PRESSURE AND MANAGE WISELY.

KEEPING THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION OPEN WITH THOSE WHO WOULD DIG INTO THIS RICH RESOURCE FOR THEIR OWN IMMEDIATE NEEDS IS AS IMPORTANT AS MANAGING IT WISELY, FOR OUR OWN USE AND FOR THAT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ONTARIANS.



NEXT MONTH, OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WILL HOST AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. THE CONFERENCE, CALLED "FUTURES IN WATER", WILL BE HELD AT THE HARBOUR CASTLE HILTON, ON JUNE 12, 13 AND 14. WE HAVE INVITED PEOPLE FROM EVERY SIDE OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUE -- POLITICIANS FROM THE U.S. AND CANADA, ACADEMICS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSUMER AND OTHER USER GROUPS.

THE CENTRAL THEME WILL BE THE IMPACT OF THIS INCREASING DEMAND ON GREAT LAKES WATER: WHO WANTS IT AND WHY; WHO NEEDS IT; WHAT FACTORS AFFECT OUR DECISIONS IN ALLOCATING WATER AND HOW MUCH TO PAY FOR IT. WE WILL HAVE SPEAKERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, FROM THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FROM ENVIRONMENT CANADA, THE CENTRE FOR THE GREAT LAKES, TOURISM ONTARIO, THE DOMINION MARINE ASSOCIATION AND THE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF ONTARIO. ONE OF OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WILL BE PAUL ROBINSON, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA.

OVERALL, THE FUTURES IN WATER CONFERENCE IS GOING TO BE AN IMPORTANT MEETING, NOT ONLY IN THE WAY IN WHICH IT WILL BRING TOGETHER VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW, BUT IN THE ROLE IT WILL PLAY IN INCREASING THE DEGREE OF PUBLIC AWARENESS OF EMERGING WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES.

AT THE CONFERENCE, WE WILL DISTRIBUTE FOR THE FIRST TIME AN ATLAS-TYPE REPORT PREPARED BY MY MINISTRY. IT IS ENTITLED "THE WATER QUANTITY RESOURCES OF ONTARIO". HARD-BOUND COPIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND OUR CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES, AND LATER TO SCHOOLS AND INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN WATER MANAGEMENT. IT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE ATLAS IS AN UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR WATER IN ONTARIO. IT CONTAINS 72 PAGES OF HIGH-QUALITY GRAPHICS, CHARTS AND MAPS. WE FEEL IT WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DOCUMENTING THE PRESSURES ON OUR GREAT LAKES WATER SUPPLY AND IN INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THOSE PRESSURES.

AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER DEMANDS FOR WATER ARE GROWING. WE HAVE TO PUT IN PLACE POLICIES THAT WILL CONSERVE AND PROTECT THIS VALUABLE AND LARGELY IRREPLACEABLE RESOURCE. THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND NAVIGATIONAL PROBLEMS EXISTS IF THESE ISSUES ARE NOT ADDRESSED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE MUST PROTECT OUR WETLAND AREAS; WE HAVE TO GUARANTEE THE STABILITY OF OUR FUTURE SUPPLIES OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER, AND WE MUST ENSURE OUR CARGO SHIPPING CAPACITY IN THE GREAT LAKES SYSTEM IS NOT REDUCED IN ANY WAY.

## SURVEYS AND MAPPING

THE 80s, I BELIEVE, WILL BE A DECADE OF TAKING STOCK OF OUR RESOURCES. IT WILL BE A DECADE IN WHICH CAREFUL UTILIZATION OF THE RESOURCES AT HAND WILL REQUIRE METICULOUS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.

TO AID IN ALL THIS, THE COMPUTER WILL PLAY A LARGER AND LARGER ROLE. OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT, LED BY MY MINISTRY, WILL SPEND \$5.3-MILLION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPUTERIZED MAPPING SYSTEM FOR USE BY THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IT WILL BE DEVELOPED IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE ONTARIO MAPPING INDUSTRY AND MUNICIPALITIES. THE PROJECT IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT, TO BE COST-SHARED BY THE PARTICIPATING GROUPS.

THIS NEW SYSTEM WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF DISTINCT ADVANTAGES. IT WILL BRING ALL LAND-RELATED INFORMATION INTO A COMMON DATA BASE. IT WILL ENABLE EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO CHOOSE THE SHORTEST RESPONSE ROUTES, BASED ON AVAILABLE INFORMATION. IT WILL AID IN THE PLANNING OF OUR FOREST FIRE ATTACKS -- BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ON WIND SPEED, MOISTURE AND FUEL CONDITIONS. IT WILL MAKE TITLE SEARCHES AND LAND VALUE ASSESSMENTS EASIER. AND IT WILL REPLACE MUNICIPAL MAP FILES WITH A SINGLE DATA BASE.

THE NEW SYSTEM, CALLED THE DIGITAL LAND RELATED INFORMATION SYSTEM, WILL GENERATE NEW REVENUES FOR THIS PROVINCE'S MAPPING INDUSTRY OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, AS IT MARKETS SIMILAR SYSTEMS FOR DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS MARKETS.

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL ALSO CREATE NEW JOBS FOR THE INDUSTRY OVER THE NEXT DECADE. IT WILL BRING THE INDUSTRY SQUARELY INTO THE COMPUTER AGE AND PUT IT IN A FIRM POSITION TO COMPETE STRONGLY IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

I HAVE ALSO JUST RECENTLY INTRODUCED A BILL TO REVISE THE SURVEYORS ACT. THE REVISIONS ACCURATELY REFLECT RECENT CHANGES IN THE CAPABILITIES OF THE SURVEYING PROFESSION IN ONTARIO. THEY WILL ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASED SPECIALIZATION IN THE SURVEYING FIELD.

## MINING

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE CLIMATE FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION IN ONTARIO HAS VASTLY IMPROVED. I BELIEVE GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE SOME CREDIT FOR THIS. GOLD PRICES HAVE HELD STEADY -- WHICH HAS HELPED. BUT MY MINISTRY HAS ALSO HELPED BY SUPPORTING OTHER PARTS OF THE MINERALS INDUSTRY -- THROUGH SUPPORT OF TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT, BETTER MAPPING AND INCREASED FINANCIAL INCENTIVES.

OUR MINING SECTOR IS, OVERALL, UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF ONE OF THE LARGEST GOLD EXPLORATION BOOMS ONTARIO HAS SEEN IN RECENT DECADES.

WE ARE FORTUNATE IN THIS PROVINCE. WE ARE BLESSED WITH SIGNIFICANT MINERAL POTENTIAL. AND WE HAVE A NUMBER OF COMPETITIVE STRENGTHS: OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING AND OPERATING CAPABILITIES; POLITICAL STABILITY; A SKILLED AND PRODUCTIVE LABOR FORCE; AND FAIRLY STABLE LABOR RELATIONS.

THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES. LAST YEAR, ALL SEGMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY REPORTED INCREASES IN THE TOTAL VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION. THE VALUE OF METALS WAS UP 14 PER CENT; STRUCTURAL MINERALS ROSE 16 PER CENT; NON-METALLIC MINERALS WERE UP NINE PER CENT; AND FUELS ROSE 16 PER CENT.

AS THE WORLD ECONOMY IMPROVES, THE BASE METAL PRODUCERS LOOK FORWARD TO PRICE RECOVERY WHICH, ALONG WITH VOLUME INCREASES, WILL RESTORE PROFITABILITY TO THEIR OPERATIONS.

IN ADDITION TO THESE PRODUCTION INCREASES, TWO INDICATORS OF FUTURE POTENTIAL -- MINING CLAIMS AND ASSESSMENT WORK -- BOTH HIT ALL TIME HIGHS IN 1983. IN BOTH CATEGORIES, WE EXCEEDED ANYTHING EVER RECORDED IN 80 YEARS OF RECORD-KEEPING, WITH MORE THAN 70,000 MINING CLAIMS RECORDED AND CLOSE TO 2.5 MILLION DAYS OF ASSESSMENT WORK ON THE BOOKS.



OUR DRILL CORE LIBRARY PROGRAM -- SUPPORTED BY THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT -- IS PROCEEDING. UNDER THIS PROGRAM, EIGHT DRILL CORE STORAGE FACILITIES WILL BE BUILT ACROSS ONTARIO BY 1986, FILLING A SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION GAP.

THE NEED FOR A SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM OF DRILL CORE DATA STORAGE IS CLEAR. EACH YEAR, THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPENDS SOME \$14-MILLION ON DRILLING. THE GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION COLLECTED IN THIS DRILLING IS VALUABLE TO FUTURE WORK. BUT MOST OF THE TIME, DRILL CORE FROM PREVIOUS EXPLORATION IS DUMPED OR SIMPLY LEFT IN THE FIELD TO DETERIORATE.

THE STORAGE FACILITIES, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL PROVIDE FOR A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION METRES OF DRILL CORE STORAGE ACROSS THE PROVINCE. THEY WILL PROVIDE A PERMANENT RECORD OF GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION TO THE MINING AND EXPLORATION INDUSTRY. AND THIS, WITHOUT DOUBT, WILL INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR EXPLORATION EFFORTS.

CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AT TIMMINS, SAULT STE. MARIE AND KIRKLAND LAKE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. CORE LIBRARIES AT BANCROFT AND TWEED ARE ALMOST COMPLETE. AND THIS YEAR, WORK WILL BEGIN ON FACILITIES AT THUNDER BAY AND KENORA. THE LAST FACILITY IS TO BE BUILT AT SUDBURY AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SOMETIME IN 1986.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE DRILL CORE LIBRARIES IS JUST ONE WAY IN WHICH WE ARE CARRYING THROUGH WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP OUR MINING RESOURCES. THEY ARE JUST ONE WAY IN WHICH WE ARE PROCEEDING TO UPDATE AND UPGRADE THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE WE REQUIRE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF ALL THIS POTENTIAL.

OUR ONTARIO MINERAL EXPLORATION PROGRAM, OR OMEP, IS ANOTHER WAY IN WHICH WE ARE STANDING SQUARELY BEHIND THE MINERAL EXPLORATION SECTOR AND HELPING TO FOSTER ITS HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

OMEP WAS INTRODUCED IN 1980, AND BY APRIL 30, 1984 IT HAD HELPED FINANCE PROJECTS TOTALLING \$72-MILLION IN EXPLORATION BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WITH \$14.5-MILLION WORTH OF AID. THIS INVESTMENT HELPED TO CREATE SOME 4,900 NEW JOBS IN THE MINING SECTOR. IN ALL, 867 PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR ASSISTANCE FROM OMEP, REPRESENTING \$200-MILLION IN PLANNED EXPLORATION. A TOTAL OF 441 OF THESE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

OMEP GRANTS PROVIDE ECONOMIC STIMULATION TO THE MINING SECTOR BY PROVIDING GRANTS TO HELP OFFSET EXPLORATION COSTS.

OMEP FUNDING HAS PAID OFF IN MANY WAYS. OMEP CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINANCING OF THE EXPLORATION WHICH LED DIRECTLY TO THE RECENT GOLD FINDS AT STURGEON LAKE, CAMERON LAKE AND HEMLO.

OMEP'S PRESENT COMMITMENT AT HEMLO IS MORE THAN \$4.5-MILLION IN GRANTS TO SOME 69 COMPANIES. THESE FIRMS, IN TURN, EXPECT TO SPEND MORE THAN \$18-MILLION ON EXPLORATION IN THE AREA.

AND AT CAMERON LAKE, OMEP CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINANCING OF THE EXPLORATION PROGRAM RESULTING IN AN IMPORTANT GOLD FIND, AND GENERATED A MAJOR STAKING RUSH IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO. TODAY, MORE THAN 75 COMPANIES ARE ACTIVE AT CAMERON LAKE.

OUR SMALL RURAL INDUSTRIAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM -- ANOTHER BILD INITIATIVE -- HAS EXPANDED THE PRODUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL MINERALS WITHIN ONTARIO AND CREATED NEW JOBS. WE HAVE HELPED OUR INDUSTRIAL MINERALS PRODUCERS WEATHER THE RECESSION.

AND WE HAVE HELPED THEM MAKE FURTHER INROADS TOWARD SATISFYING OUR DOMESTIC NEEDS FOR INDUSTRIAL MINERALS, AS WELL AS DEVELOPING EXPORT MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES.

GRANTS UNDER THE PROGRAM LAST YEAR TOTALLED \$3.4-MILLION. THE LARGEST WENT TO STEEP ROCK IRON MINES, WHICH RECEIVED \$1.35-MILLION. STEEP ROCK, IN TURN, SPENT A FURTHER \$7.1-MILLION ON AN EXPANSION OF ITS PLANT AT PERTH. THE PLANT'S PRODUCTION CAPACITY HAS NOW DOUBLED. THIS EXPANSION WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE PROGRAM.

THIS YEAR, MY MINISTRY'S ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WILL AWARD ANOTHER \$1-MILLION IN GRANTS UNDER ITS EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO THE MINING EXPLORATION INDUSTRY. FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPLIED BY BILD. PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE PROGRAM ARE AIMED AT INCREASING EFFICIENCY IN MINERAL EXPLORATION THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNIQUES, NEW EQUIPMENT AND NEW FACILITIES. BILD HAS EARMARKED \$5-MILLION FOR THE PROGRAM OVER FIVE YEARS.

THROUGH OUR GOMILL PROGRAM, PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE OFFERED INTEREST-FREE, FORGIVEABLE FIVE-YEAR LOANS TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF CUSTOM GOLD MILLING AND TESTING FACILITIES. BILD HAS ALLOCATED \$10-MILLION FOR THIS PROGRAM. EACH PROJECT CAN QUALIFY FOR UP TO \$1-MILLION IN AID. THIS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO HELP MINING ENTREPRENEURS WHO DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH CAPITAL OR PROVEN ORE TO BUILD THEIR OWN MILLS.

THE FIRST GOLD MILL WAS ESTABLISHED IN BEARDMORE BY PANCONTINENTAL MINING IN 1982 WITH \$1-MILLION ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. GOLDLUND MINES ALSO RECEIVED ASSISTANCE IN EARLY MARCH OF THIS YEAR FOR THEIR OPERATION SOUTH OF SIOUX LOOKOUT.

THIS YEAR, PAMOUR PORCUPINE MINES AT TIMMINS BECAME THE THIRD COMPANY TO SIGN A GOMILL AGREEMENT FOR A MILL.

WE HAVE RECENTLY COMPLETED A PROJECT AIMED AT HELPING US ACQUIRE AN UP-TO-DATE GEOSCIENTIFIC DATA BASE IN NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO. LAST WEEK, WE RELEASED THE RESULTS OF AN AIRBORNE ELECTROMAGNETIC AND MAGNETIC SURVEY OF THE BLACK RIVER-MATHESON AREA IN NORTHERN ONTARIO. THE STUDY WAS RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TORONTO, KIRKLAND LAKE, TIMMINS AND MATHESON. FUNDING FOR THIS INITIATIVE COMES JOINTLY FROM MY MINISTRY AND THE MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS.

I HAVE ALREADY REFERRED TO THE EXPLORATION ACTIVITY AT HEMLO. SINCE 1981, WHEN THE POTENTIAL FOR SIGNIFICANT GOLD DEPOSITS IN NORTH CENTRAL ONTARIO BECAME A CERTAINTY, THE NAME HEMLO HAS BECOME ALMOST A HOUSEHOLD WORD THROUGHOUT THIS PROVINCE. AS A RESULT OF OUR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROGRAMS, WE WERE READY WITH THE UP-TO-DATE MAPS AND INFORMATION THAT WERE NEEDED IN THE EARLY EXPLORATION AT HEMLO.

TODAY, HEMLO HAS BECOME THE SOURCE OF THE LARGEST GOLD STAKING RUSH IN THIS PROVINCE'S HISTORY. RESERVE ESTIMATES AT HEMLO NOW STAND AT 69 MILLION METRIC TONNES OF PROVEN ORE, WITH A GRADE OF ABOUT EIGHT GRAMS OF GOLD PER TONNE. THE THREE NEW MINES UNDER DEVELOPMENT ARE EXPECTED TO COME ON STREAM BY THE MID-1980s. TOGETHER THEY PROMISE TO DOUBLE ONTARIO'S GOLD PRODUCTION, PRODUCING 15 TO 19 TONNES OF GOLD A YEAR.



DURING CONSTRUCTION, EMPLOYMENT AT THESE THREE PROJECTS WILL BE ALMOST 2,000. AS WELL, AT LEAST \$500-MILLION WILL BE SPENT AT HEMLO BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BRING THE KNOWN DEPOSITS INTO PRODUCTION. THIS SHOULD TRANSLATE INTO SOME 700 PERMANENT DIRECT JOBS.

AND THERE IS MORE HAPPENING AT HEMLO.

MILLING AT THE GOLDEN GIANT MINE, OWNED BY NORANDA, GOLDEN SCEPTRE AND GOLIATH GOLD, IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN EARLY NEXT YEAR. SHAFT SINKING BEGAN LAST FALL.

AT THE PROPERTY OWNED JOINTLY BY TECK CORP AND INTERNATIONAL CORONA RESOURCES, SHAFT SINKING BEGAN THIS SPRING. MILL PRODUCTION IS SLATED TO BEGIN IN JULY 1985.

AT THE WILLIAMS PROPERTY, OWNED BY LAC MINERALS, THE GROUND HAS BEEN CLEARED IN PREPARATION FOR CONSTRUCTION, AND SHAFT EXCAVATIONS AND THE POURING OF THE SHAFT COLLAR WERE COMPLETED LAST WEEK.

ELSEWHERE, WE HAVE SEEN SOME REAL GROWTH IN THE EXPANSION OF SEVERAL EXISTING MINES. WE HAVE SEEN A \$30-MILLION EXPANSION OF THE MACASSA MINE AND A \$92-MILLION EXPANSION OF THE DOME MINE AT TIMMINS. WHEN COMPLETED IN MID-1985, MACASSA WILL HAVE THE DEEPEST SHAFT IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THREE OTHER EXISTING MINES UNDERWENT EXPANSION LAST YEAR: THE RENABIE MINE AT MISSANABIE, THE DICKENSON MINE AT RED LAKE AND THE GOLDLUND MINE NEAR SIOUX LOOKOUT.

WE SEE THE REAL POTENTIAL OF OUR MINING SECTOR IN OTHER NEW MINE DEVELOPMENT: IN THE NEW McBEAN OPEN PIT GOLD MINE IN THE KIRKLAND LAKE AREA AND IN THE AQUARIUS PROJECT NEAR TIMMINS.

THE BASE METALS OPERATION AT KIDD CREEK HAS BECOME TIMMINS' LARGEST EMPLOYER WITH 2,825 JOBS CREATED.

AND AT DETOUR LAKE, ONE OF CANADA'S LARGEST TONNAGE GOLD MINING OPERATIONS OPENED LAST FALL. FULL PRODUCTION OF 2,500 METRIC TONNES A DAY WAS REACHED IN OCTOBER, WITH THE FIRST GOLD BAR POURED ON SEPTEMBER 29. BY THE END OF DECEMBER, A TOTAL OF 303,500 METRIC TONNES OF ORE HAD BEEN MINED AND MILLED.

FURTHERMORE, A \$110-MILLION EXPANSION WILL INCREASE THE MILL CAPACITY AT DETOUR LAKE TO 4,000 METRIC TONNES A DAY. SHAFT SINKING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. THE MINE IS EXPECTED TO EMPLOY 500 PEOPLE ON A PERMANENT BASIS BY THE TIME THE EXPANSION IS COMPLETED AND UNDERGROUND MINING BEGINS.

THE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH LEVEL OF CLAIM STAKING, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNIQUES, THE IMPRESSIVE AMOUNT OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY AUGURS EXTREMELY WELL FOR THE POTENTIAL OF OUR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR.

ALL IN ALL, THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS PRESENT A VERY PROMISING AND POSITIVE PICTURE.

WE HAVE SUPPLEMENTED THESE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD WITH SOME LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.

IN NOVEMBER OF 1983, WE INTRODUCED A SERIES OF CHANGES TO OUR PROVINCIAL MINING ACT. AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE MINING ACT CHANGES ILLUSTRATE OUR COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. THE NEW MINING ACT -- BILL 129 -- WAS DRAFTED AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE OF PLANNING AND CONSULTATION WITH THE MINING INDUSTRY. ESSENTIALLY, IT MODERNIZES OUR CURRENT MINING ACT OF 1906, A PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT HAS SERVED US WELL BUT NEEDS UPDATING.

THE BILL WAS GIVEN FIRST READING LAST FALL. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ISSUED AN INVITATION TO THE INDUSTRY TO RESPOND TO OUR PROPOSALS. TWO THOUSAND COPIES OF BILL 129 WERE CIRCULATED, AND A REVIEW COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO MONITOR RESPONSE TO THE LEGISLATION. TO DATE, WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME 60 RESPONSES.

SINCE THE BILL DIED ON THE ORDER PAPER AT THE END OF THE YEAR, THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING AT REVIEWING SOME OF THE MAJOR IDEAS PUT FORWARD IN THE RESPONSES WE HAVE RECEIVED. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING SPREAD SHEETS WHICH OUTLINE THE 12 SECTIONS OF THE ACT AND THE INDUSTRY RESPONSE AND COMMENT TO EACH SECTION.

THIS LEGISLATION COMES AT AN IMPORTANT TIME IN THE HISTORY OF MINING IN THIS PROVINCE. THE CHANGES WILL ENABLE US TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE BOOM IN EXPLORATION WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION BETTER REFLECTS THE NEEDS OF THE MINING INDUSTRY FOR THE 1980s. AND IT PROMISES TO STREAMLINE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT RECENT TECHNICAL ADVANCES MADE IN MINERAL EXPLORATION AND TECHNOLOGY.

THE FIRST CHANGE PROVIDES FOR A LIFETIME PROSPECTORS' LICENCE. THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT CLAIMS WILL NO LONGER BE LOST THROUGH NEGLECT OR FAILURE TO RENEW A LICENCE. THE SOLE REQUIREMENT FOR MAINTAINING A CLAIM IN GOOD STANDING WILL BE THE PERFORMANCE OF ASSESSMENT WORK. THIS WILL ALSO SIMPLIFY ADMINISTRATIVE WORK FOR MY MINISTRY.

A SECOND CHANGE WILL REDUCE THE COST OF STAKING BY PERMITTING STAKING OF UP TO 256 HECTARES -- ABOUT ONE SQUARE MILE -- IN A SINGLE BLOCK. THIS WILL SIMPLIFY THE ACQUISITION OF MINING LANDS.

UNDER THE NEW MINING ACT, WHEN ASSESSMENT WORK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON SURFACE RIGHTS THAT ARE PRIVATELY OWNED, THE SURFACE RIGHT OWNER WILL BE GIVEN 30 DAYS' NOTICE AS TO THE INTENT OF THE EXPLORATIONIST.

THE NEW ACT ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE PROVINCIAL CABINET WILL NO LONGER NEED TO APPROVE EXPLORATORY LICENCES FOR AREAS LESS THAN 26,000 HECTARES (OR 100 SQUARE MILES). THIS, AGAIN, WILL SIMPLIFY ADMINISTRATION AND SPEED UP THE GRANTING OF LICENCES TO THE INDUSTRY.

CABINET WILL CONTINUE TO APPROVE ALL EXPLORATORY LICENCES OF OCCUPATION IN AREAS GREATER THAN 26,000 HECTARES, AND IN SPECIAL CASES.

AS YOU KNOW, SUCH SPECIAL CASES ARE RARE, AND ARE ONLY GRANTED WHERE THE MINISTRY RECEIVES PROPOSALS THAT ARE NOT COVERED BY OUR POLICY GUIDELINES. BUT -- WHEN SUCH SPECIAL CASES DO COME ALONG -- THEY CAN HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LOCAL INDUSTRY.



IN A RECENT EXAMPLE, CABINET APPROVED A THREE-YEAR LICENCE FOR THE CANADIAN NICKEL COMPANY LIMITED TO PERFORM DEEP DRILLING IN A LARGE AREA NORTHEAST OF SUDBURY. THE COMPANY IS SPENDING AT LEAST \$1.5-MILLION ON THIS WORK, WHICH IS BEING PERFORMED IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION THAT WOULD LEAD TO THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW ORE BODY IN THE AREA.

THE BASIS FOR MEASURING ASSESSMENT WORK IS ALSO TO BE CHANGED: FROM THE CURRENT MAN-DAY BASIS TO A DOLLAR BASIS.

THE LEGISLATION ALSO ATTEMPTS TO CLARIFY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOLDERS OF MINING RIGHTS AND HOLDERS OF SURFACE RIGHTS. IT DEFINES THE RIGHTS OF ACCESS TO PERFORM ASSESSMENT WORK.

THE ACT PROPOSES TO EXPAND THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINING RECORDER IN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS FORMERLY HANDLED BY THE MINING AND LANDS COMMISSIONER. UNDER THE NEW ACT, THE MINING COMMISSIONER WOULD CONCENTRATE ON PLAYING A JUDICIAL ROLE RELATING TO HEARINGS, VESTING ORDERS AND THE LIKE.

THE LEGISLATION ALSO PROPOSES TO END THE PRACTICE OF PUBLISHING TAX ARREARS. THIS IS MEANT TO COMBAT THE TENDENCY OF SPECULATORS TO TAKE CONTROL OF MINING RIGHTS BY NEGOTIATING WITH DELINQUENT OWNERS. IT SHOULD ALLOW MORE OF THESE LANDS TO REVERT TO THE CROWN SO THEY CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION.

ESSENTIALLY, THESE CHANGES ARE FINE-TUNING TO THE EXISTING LEGISLATION. BUT THERE IS ONE IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT MIGHT BE DEEMED CONTROVERSIAL BY SOME IN THE INDUSTRY.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT OF THE CROWN TO PERMIT OTHER SURFACE USES ON ALL MINING LANDS -- SO LONG AS THESE USES DO NOT CONFLICT WITH MINING OPERATIONS.

THIS CHANGE IS SIMPLY AN EXPANSION OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT IS CURRENTLY APPLIED IN THE CASE OF TIMBER, GRAVEL AND PEAT. IT REFLECTS OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE MULTIPLE USE OF OUR RESOURCES.

PROVISION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE IN THE NEW MINING ACT FOR RESTRICTING THE USE OF SURFACE RIGHTS OVER POTENTIALLY UNSAFE, INACTIVE MINES.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT NEW MINING LEGISLATION WILL BE PUT INTO PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AND WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONTINUING INPUT OF THE INDUSTRY. THE INDUSTRY HAS, FOR THE MOST PART, WELCOMED THE CHANGES AS PART AND PARCEL OF MODERNIZING OUR APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONTARIO'S MINERAL WEALTH. AND THE ENTIRE PROCESS OF DRAFTING THE NEW LEGISLATION REFLECTS OUR INCREASING SHIFT TO DEVELOP CO-OPERATIVE, RATHER THAN COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG OUR RESOURCE USERS.

## FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT

IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, WE HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR APPROACH TO FOREST FIRE FIGHTING.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THIS AREA WERE RECENTLY RECOGNIZED BY THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY. WE ARE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH CIDA TO ACT AS PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR IN AN IMPORTANT FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN CHINA. IF NEGOTIATIONS PROVE SUCCESSFUL, I EXPECT MY MINISTRY TO ACT AS PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR FOR THE PROJECT. WE HOPE TO SIGN A FORMAL AGREEMENT IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

CHINA NEEDS OUR ASSISTANCE. EVERY YEAR, 30 TIMES AS MUCH FOREST AREA IS DESTROYED BY FIRE IN CHINA THAN IN CANADA.

THE CIDA PROPOSAL BEING NEGOTIATED IS THE MODEL FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN THE BOREAL FOREST OF HEILONGJING PROVINCE IN NORTHEAST CHINA. ONTARIO WILL CONTRIBUTE SOME STAFF TIME TO TRAIN THE CHINESE IN THE USE OF MODERN FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY. OTTAWA WILL CONTRIBUTE ALL OTHER ASSOCIATED COSTS.

THE TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE BOTH IN ONTARIO AND AT THE PROJECT SITE IN CHINA. THIS TYPE OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION REFLECTS VERY FAVORABLY ON THE KIND OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP IN OUR FIREFIGHTING UNITS.

AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE USE OF RESOURCES ALLOTTED TO FOREST FIRE FIGHTING IN ONTARIO. IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, THE MINISTRY INTRODUCED A NEW CENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF FIRE MANAGEMENT, WHICH CO-ORDINATES FIRE PREVENTION, DETECTION AND CONTROL EFFORTS THROUGH REGIONAL FIRE CENTRES.

THE LIGHTNING LOCATOR SYSTEM, WHICH HAS BEEN INSTALLED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE PROVINCE OVER FOUR YEARS HAS BEEN MODIFIED. ALL OF THE DATA FROM THE SYSTEM IS TRANSMITTED TO THE PROVINCIAL FIRE CENTRE OVER A PROVINCEWIDE NETWORK. THE PROVINCIAL CENTRE AND THE REGIONAL FIRE CENTRES HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO INFORMATION -- WHICH HELPS THEM PREDICT FIRE OCCURRENCE, PLAN DETECTION PATROLS AND ASSIGN FIRE CONTROL FORCES TO AREAS OF EXPECTED NEED.

IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, I SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH OTTAWA UNDER WHICH ONTARIO WILL ACQUIRE SEVEN MORE CL-215 AIRCRAFT, IN ADDITION TO THE TWO WE NOW OPERATE.

THESE ADDITIONS TO OUR FLEET WILL COME INTO SERVICE IN STAGES BETWEEN NOW AND 1988. ONTARIO WILL PAY FOR THREE OF THE NEW WATER BOMBERS, AND OTTAWA WILL PAY FOR FOUR. THEY WILL REPLACE MANY OF THE 16 AGING OTTER AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY USED FOR WATER-BOMBING AND GENERAL TRANSPORT, AND THE SIX WORLD WAR II VINTAGE CANSO AIRCRAFT WE HIRE ANNUALLY FOR WATER-BOMBING.

THIS FISCAL YEAR, WE PLAN TO DISPOSE OF THREE OTTER AND TWO TURBO BEAVER AIRCRAFT AS PART OF A STREAMLINING PROCESS PLANNED FOR OUR AIR FLEET OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. THIS WILL GIVE US A MORE MODERN, ALBEIT SMALLER AIR FLEET -- ABOUT 15 PER CENT SMALLER. IN THE FUTURE, CHARTERED OR LEASED AIRCRAFT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF OUR FLYING NEEDS DURING THE FIRE SEASON.

AND A NEWLY PURCHASED HANGAR AT TIMMINS WILL HOUSE THE FIRE AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRES AND EQUIPMENT CACHE. THIS WILL MAKE THE FIREFIGHTING OPERATION IN THAT PART OF THE PROVINCE MUCH MORE EFFICIENT.

THIS FACILITY WILL ALSO ACCOMMODATE THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE AT TIMMINS, AND THE AIRCRAFT USED BY THE HUDSON AND JAMES BAY PATROL OF THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE.

HISTORICALLY, MANY NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HIRED AS FIRE CREW MEMBERS, EXTRA FIREFIGHTERS AND CREW LEADERS. THEY HAVE ALWAYS PERFORMED WELL, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE THEM. LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 41 NATIVE PEOPLE SERVED ON OUR FIRE CREWS, 10 OF THEM AS CREW LEADERS. IN SOME AREAS, WE ARE PREPARING TO EXPAND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO EQUIP AND TRAIN NATIVE FIREFIGHTERS.



EARLY INDICATIONS THAT 1984 MIGHT BE A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR FOREST FIRES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BORNE OUT TO DATE. TEMPERATURES WELL ABOVE NORMAL, LOW PRECIPITATION AND HIGH WINDS COMBINED TO PRODUCE 527 FIRES IN ONTARIO BY MAY 22. THIS COMPARES TO A NORM FOR THAT DATE OF ABOUT 440 FIRES.

THIS PAST WEEKEND, HIGH WINDS, COMBINED WITH EXTREME BURNING CONDITIONS, RESULTED IN A SERIOUS OUTBREAK OF 15 FOREST FIRES IN THE THUNDER BAY AREA.

BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE CONDITIONS, TWO OF THE FIRES SPREAD QUICKLY AND REACHED SIZES OF 5,000 AND 6,000 ACRES. THE OTHER FIRES WERE SMALLER BUT POSED A SERIOUS THREAT TO LIFE, PROPERTY AND FOREST VALUES IN THE AREA.

THIS SITUATION HAS NOW STABILIZED, AND ALL OF THE FIRES ARE UNDER CONTROL. HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT THIS TYPE OF FIRE OCCURRENCE THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF MAY AND IN JUNE UNTIL NORMAL RAINFALL AND WEATHER PATTERNS REDUCE THE FIRE HAZARD IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

WE ARE PREPARED FOR THE 1984 FIRE SEASON WITH 170 FIVE-MEMBER FIRE CREWS; TWO CL-215, SIX CANSO AND FIVE TWIN OTTER WATER BOMBERS; 14 CONTRACT HELICOPTERS; 19 CONTRACT DETECTION AIRCRAFT AND GOOD SUPPLIES OF GROUND FIRE SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT.

## FORESTRY

ONTARIO'S FOREST INDUSTRY PROVIDES DIRECT EMPLOYMENT FOR 80,000 PEOPLE. IN NORTHERN ONTARIO, DOZENS OF COMMUNITIES ARE TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON FORESTRY. THE INDUSTRY IN ONTARIO CONTRIBUTED \$2.6-BILLION IN REVENUES FROM EXPORTS LAST YEAR.

MY MINISTRY'S TOTAL FOREST MANAGEMENT BUDGET IN 1984-85 IS \$162.6-MILLION. THIS COMPARES WITH A TOTAL FOREST MANAGEMENT BUDGET OF \$99-MILLION IN 1981-82. IN THIS FISCAL YEAR, WE WILL PRODUCE 150-MILLION SEEDLINGS IN ONTARIO -- COMPARED WITH 60-MILLION TREES CUT.

IN ITS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS, OUR FORESTRY SECTOR IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW RESOURCES CAN BE MANAGED THROUGH CO-OPERATION AND A SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY. IT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT CAN PROFIT BY WORKING TOGETHER, HOW WE CAN ASSUME MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. AND IT IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HOW GOVERNMENT CAN ACHIEVE LONG-TERM RESOURCE GOALS THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND PARTNERSHIP.

WE ARE PROUD OF THE KIND OF CO-OPERATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE IN THE FORESTRY AREA, ESPECIALLY IN OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT PROGRAM.

WITHOUT DOUBT, THE FMA PROGRAM IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN FORESTRY IN ONTARIO IN RECENT YEARS. ONTARIO'S COMMITMENT TO THIS PROGRAM IS EVIDENT. ANNUAL FUNDING TO THE FMA PROGRAM HAS INCREASED ALMOST 20-FOLD SINCE 1980 -- THE FIRST YEAR THAT FMAs WERE IN PLACE. IT ROSE FROM JUST UNDER \$3-MILLION IN 1980 TO A PROJECTED \$54-MILLION IN 1984.

THERE ARE NOW 21 FMAs IN PLACE, COVERING AN AREA OF MORE THAN 100,000 SQUARE KILOMETRES. THIS YEAR SO FAR, FOUR AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED: ONE WITH DUBREUIL BROTHERS LIMITED OF DUBREUILVILLE IN FEBRUARY, AND THREE IN APRIL WITH BOISE CASCADE OF CANADA LIMITED, THE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN OUR NORTHWESTERN REGION.

BY 1985, WE INTEND TO HAVE SOME 30 FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS IN PLACE, COVERING MOST OF THE FOREST OPERATIONS ON CURRENTLY LICENSED CROWN LAND IN ONTARIO. SPENDING ON THE PROGRAM BY THAT TIME SHOULD BE UP TO \$90-MILLION, ALMOST DOUBLE WHAT IT IS NOW. BY THE EARLY 1990s, AGREEMENT HOLDERS SHOULD BE CONDUCTING ONE-HALF TO THREE-QUARTERS OF ALL REGENERATION WORK IN ONTARIO.

THE COMPANIES AGREE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGENERATION AND OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, AS SPELLED OUT IN EACH AGREEMENT. IF THEY FAIL TO COMPLY, THEIR HARVEST RIGHTS ARE REDUCED ACCORDINGLY.

INDUSTRY ALSO UNDERTAKES A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE COSTS OF REGENERATION. THE FMA PROGRAM GUARANTEES A CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF FOREST PRODUCTS, BY ENSURING OUR FORESTS ARE HARVESTED AND REGENERATED ON A SUSTAINED-YIELD BASIS. MY MINISTRY FUNDS 60 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL SILVICULTURE COST OF EACH FMA WITH HELP FROM BILD -- THE REST OF THE MONEY COMES FROM INDUSTRY.

OUR FMA PROGRAM PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN OUR EFFORTS TO REGENERATE OUR FORESTS. DURING 1982-83, FMA HOLDERS CARRIED OUT SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS ON 46,000 HECTARES OF FOREST LAND IN ONTARIO AND BUILT 650 KILOMETRES OF ACCESS ROADS. THIS MARKS A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN FOREST REGENERATION IN THIS PROVINCE.

THE AGREEMENTS MAKE THOSE IN THE FOREST INDUSTRY DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESOURCE FROM WHICH THEY MAKE THEIR LIVING.

THROUGH THESE VERY IMPORTANT INITIATIVES, WE HAVE FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGED THE FOREST INDUSTRY'S UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR ROLE REGARDING THE FOREST RESOURCE.

CLEARLY, THE INDUSTRY IS NOW INVOLVED IN AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO MAKE THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF OUR MATURE FORESTS. CLEARLY, THE INDUSTRY IS COMMITTED TO WISE AND EFFECTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT, TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINED YIELD WITHOUT SACRIFICING OTHER RESOURCE VALUES. AND CLEARLY, THE INDUSTRY ACCEPTS THIS -- IT MUST ACCEPT THIS TO ENSURE ITS OWN LONG-TERM SURVIVAL.

INDUSTRY HAS MODERNIZED ITS TECHNIQUES. IT HAS MADE MASSIVE FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT. AND IT HAS SPENT A LOT OF MONEY TO MEET ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS THAT WE HAVE SET DOWN. IT HAS BUILT A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT THAT ENABLES ITS LEADERS TO SIT DOWN WITH EXPERTS FROM THE PROVINCE AND FROM OTTAWA, AND DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS TO MEET THEIR COMMON RESOURCE GOALS.

AND I BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TOWARD ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF, AND INVOLVEMENT IN FOREST MANAGEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 1979 WE INTRODUCED REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THAT BOTH THE FIVE-YEAR OPERATING PLANS AND THE 20-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS OF OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS, ARE SUBJECTED TO A THOROUGH PUBLIC REVIEW BEFORE THEY RECEIVE APPROVAL. WE HAVE NOW EXTENDED THIS REQUIREMENT TO THE FIVE- AND 20-YEAR PLANS FOR ALL CROWN LANDS.



WE ALSO KEEP LOCAL RESIDENTS AND LANDOWNERS INFORMED OF PROPOSED SPRAYING ACTIVITIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PLANTING TREES IS NOT ENOUGH. WE MUST ALSO ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL BY CONTROLLING WEEDS AND, WHERE NECESSARY, INSECTS THROUGH CAREFUL PROTECTION PROGRAMS.

DURING THE COURSE OF OUR PUBLIC REVIEWS, MANY OF THE MINISTRY'S DISTRICT AND REGIONAL OFFICES HAVE CONDUCTED OPEN HOUSES ON FOREST MANAGEMENT -- TO BETTER APPRISE THE PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE ABOUT THEIR FOREST HERITAGE.

THE MINISTRY ALSO PRODUCES MANY DISPLAYS, EXHIBITS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS WHICH ARE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AT SPORTSMEN'S SHOWS, FAIRS AND AGRICULTURAL SHOWS, PROVINCIAL PARKS, PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS AND OTHER CENTRES. THEY ALL HAVE ONE VIEW IN MIND: TO RAISE THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT.

CONSIDER OUR PRIVATE LAND FOREST EXTENSION WORK, OUR PROVINCIAL FOREST FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN, OUR INCORPORATION OF MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREAS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF MULTIPLE RESOURCE USE INTO ONTARIO'S DISTRICT LAND USE GUIDELINES. ALL THESE INITIATIVES ARE FIRMLY BASED ON THE SAME PRINCIPLE. AND THAT IS SIMPLY THAT ONTARIO'S CROWN FORESTS MUST RECEIVE THE SOUND STEWARDSHIP AND CAREFUL MANAGEMENT THAT ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THEIR OWNERS -- ALL THE PEOPLE OF ONTARIO.

PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS HAVE ALSO HELPED WITH OUR REFORESTATION EFFORTS. MY MINISTRY ALREADY HAS 20 PRIVATE GROWERS UNDER CONTRACT, MANY OF THEM IN ONE-INDUSTRY COMMUNITIES. TEN OF THESE ARE IN THE NORTHERN REGION AND FOUR IN THE NORTHWESTERN REGION. LAST YEAR, THE PRODUCTION FROM THESE GROWERS PROVIDED US WITH 25 MILLION TREES FOR PLANTING. THIS YEAR, WE WILL PLANT 63 MILLION TREES PRODUCED BY THESE 20 GROWERS. MY MINISTRY ANNUALLY BUYS UP ALL CONTAINER STOCK PRODUCED BY THE PRIVATE GROWERS AND ASSISTS THE GROWERS WITH CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS. LAST YEAR THE GRANT COST WAS \$3.9-MILLION, SOME OF WHICH WAS PROVIDED BY BILD.

THESE PRIVATE GROWERS ARE EXPANDING THEIR EFFORTS AND PROVIDING JOBS IN THE PROCESS. IN COCHRANE, BLAZECKIA GREENHOUSES HAS EXPANDED ITS PRODUCTION BY ONE MILLION TREES AND WILL BE GROWING 1.6 MILLION TREES THIS YEAR.

IN IROQUOIS FALLS, NORTHERN GREENHOUSE FARMS HAS EXPANDED ITS OPERATIONS BY THREE MILLION TREES TO MEET OUR DEMAND AND WILL GROW SIX AND A HALF MILLION TREES THIS YEAR.

IN TIMMINS, LAFLEUR GARDENS HAS ALSO EXPANDED BY THREE MILLION TREES AND WILL ALSO GROW SIX AND A HALF MILLION.

ALSO LAST FALL, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A MAJOR GREENHOUSE COMPLEX, TO BE RUN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WILL BE BUILT AT KAPUSKASING THIS YEAR. CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW GREENHOUSE SHOULD BE COMPLETED THIS FALL, AND THE FACILITY WILL BE IN PRODUCTION BY JANUARY OF 1985. IT WILL EMPLOY FOUR PEOPLE ON A FULL-TIME BASIS.

THE COMBINED OUTPUT OF ALL THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES -- BOTH BARE ROOT AND CONTAINER -- WILL ALLOW US TO PLANT MORE THAN 150 MILLION SEEDLINGS THIS YEAR.

SINCE 10 PER CENT OF ONTARIO'S TOTAL PRODUCTIVE FOREST LAND IS PRIVATELY OWNED, WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO INVOLVE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS IN OUR REFORESTATION PROJECTS.

LAST YEAR, WE INVITED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ATTEND OPEN FORUMS TO DISCUSS PRIVATE LAND FORESTRY, BASED ON A DISCUSSION PAPER ENTITLED PRIVATE LAND FORESTS: A PUBLIC RESOURCE. WE ARE WORKING NOW TOWARD A NEW POLICY FOR PRIVATE FORESTS IN THIS PROVINCE.

AS YOU KNOW, THROUGH OUR WOODLANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT PROGRAM, WE ARE ALREADY ASSISTING MORE THAN 10,000 LANDOWNERS TO DEVELOP OR TO ENHANCE WOODLOTS ON THEIR PROPERTY.

THROUGH THESE EFFORTS AND MORE, WE ARE ENSURING THAT ONTARIO HAS AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF TREES FOR THE FUTURE.

AND WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO SHARE OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT COSTS MORE FAIRLY WITH THE FOREST INDUSTRY.

WE PROPOSE TO INCREASE BOTH CROWN DUES ON HARVESTED TIMBER AND THE CHARGES FOR THE USE OF CROWN LAND PAID BY ONTARIO'S FOREST COMPANIES. BOTH THESE INITIATIVES WILL HELP BRING GOVERNMENT REVENUES MORE INTO LINE WITH THE COSTS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT.

CROWN REVENUES FOR HARVESTED TIMBER HAVE REMAINED STABLE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS -- AT ABOUT \$50-MILLION A YEAR. BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S COSTS OF MANAGING THE FORESTS HAVE DOUBLED IN REAL TERMS -- TO AN ESTIMATED \$187-MILLION IN 1984.

SO WE RECENTLY ADVISED THE PROVINCE'S FOREST COMPANIES THAT THEY MAY SOON BE PAYING MORE TOWARD THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES HERE IN ONTARIO.

I'D LIKE TO BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE THOSE CHANGES FOR YOU.

WE ARE PROPOSING THAT CROWN TIMBER DUES AND AREA CHARGES INCREASE 25 PER CENT, RETROACTIVE TO APRIL 1, 1984. IN ADDITION, WE ARE PROPOSING TO INITIATE ANNUAL INCREASES IN CROWN TIMBER DUES. THE INCREASES WOULD BE BASED ON A SLIDING SCALE WHICH IS DOUBLE-INDEXED TO THE INFLATION RATE OF FOREST PRODUCT PRICES.

WE BELIEVE IT IS BOTH FAIR AND REASONABLE FOR THE INDUSTRY TO SHARE THE INCREASED COSTS OF MANAGING THE RESOURCE.

I WANT TO STRESS THAT THESE PROPOSED INCREASES COME AFTER CONSIDERABLE CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY, AND THAT THEY ARE DESIGNED TO HELP PROMOTE A SYSTEM WHEREBY FOREST MANAGEMENT REVENUES TRACK EXPENDITURES.

I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT OUR PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD MAKE THE CROWN TIMBER DUES SYSTEM DOUBLY RESPONSIVE TO THE FOREST PRODUCTS MARKET. AS WELL, THE CHANGES WOULD PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT WITH MUCH MORE FLEXIBILITY WHEN ASSESSING TIMBER CHARGES.

LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. UNDER THE NEW DUES SCHEDULE, A FIVE-PER-CENT PRICE INCREASE IN FOREST PRODUCT PRICES IN A GIVEN YEAR WOULD SEE A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN CROWN DUES OF 10 PER CENT. A FIVE-PER-CENT-DECREASE IN THE PRICE OF FOREST PRODUCT PRICES, HOWEVER, WOULD LEAD TO A CORRESPONDING 10-PER-CENT-REDUCTION IN DUES.



IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES I HAVE DESCRIBED, MY MINISTRY IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP A SECOND PHASE OF CHANGES TO THE CROWN TIMBER DUES STRUCTURE. IN THIS SECOND PHASE, WE ANTICIPATE INCLUDING GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES FOR THOSE COMPANIES THAT DEMONSTRATE BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF THE FOREST.

I HAVE DISCUSSED ALL THESE PROPOSED CHANGES WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF MOST FOREST COMPANIES.

WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN HELPING OUR FORESTRY INDUSTRY MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE MARKETPLACE, SO THAT THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS IN THIS PROVINCE THAT ARE DEPENDENT ON THE VIABILITY OF OUR FOREST COMPANIES ARE NOT THREATENED.

QUITE RECENTLY, SOME U.S. COMPETITORS OF OUR LUMBER MANUFACTURERS CALLED FOR COUNTERVAILING TARIFFS TO OFFSET WHAT THEY CONSIDERED WERE SUBSIDIES FROM OUR FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. WHEN THE U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED IMPOSING SUCH TARIFFS, MY MINISTRY WORKED WITH INDUSTRY AND OUR PROVINCIAL COUNTERPARTS ACROSS CANADA TO REBUT THE U.S. INDUSTRY'S ARGUMENTS. I TRAVELLED TO WASHINGTON MYSELF -- ONCE IN THE COMPANY OF MY COUNTERPARTS FROM THE QUEBEC AND BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENTS.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RULED LAST FALL THAT TARIFFS WERE NOT JUSTIFIED, AND THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOLVED FOR THE TIME BEING. HOWEVER, THERE REMAIN SOME RUMBLINGS OF DISCONTENT AMONG THE U.S. LUMBER FIRMS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTHEASTERN U.S. NEW PROPOSALS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FLOATED WHICH WOULD LIMIT CANADIAN IMPORTS, NONE OF WHICH HAVE BEEN FORMALLY PROPOSED BY THE SOUTHEAST LUMBERMAN'S ASSOCIATION.

THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT MAJOR NEW TRADE LEGISLATION IN WASHINGTON IN 1985 OR 1986 MAY CONTAIN PROVISIONS THAT WOULD AFFECT OUR LUMBER TRADE.

FOR THE TIME BEING, HOWEVER, THIS IS ALL MERE SHADOW-BOXING. I AM CONVINCED, AS ARE MY COUNTERPARTS IN OTTAWA AND OTHER PROVINCES, THAT THE IMPOSITION OF ANY LUMBER TRADE BARRIERS ON OUR FORESTRY INDUSTRY WOULD BE AN UNFAIR BARRIER TO TRADE WITH THE U.S. AND WE ARE PREPARED TO GO TO BAT FOR THE INDUSTRY IN THE FUTURE, IF THE NEED ARISES. FOR NOW, HOWEVER, THE THREAT HAS BEEN REMOVED.

WHEN I APPEARED BEFORE YOU LAST NOVEMBER, I OUTLINED OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT. THIS INCLUDES ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN ON CROWN LAND BOTH BY THE MINISTRY AND BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY WORKING WITHIN OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.

AS I EXPLAINED AT THAT TIME, WE ARE SEEKING WHAT IS CALLED A CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR ALL OF OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS FOR EACH ACTIVITY. THIS, IN ESSENCE, IS APPROVAL UNDER THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT FOR OUR FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES. UNTIL WE RECEIVE THAT APPROVAL, WE ARE OPERATING UNDER AN EXEMPTION THAT EXPIRES AT THE END OF JUNE. AND WE HAVE ASKED FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE EXEMPTION THROUGH TO THE END OF DECEMBER 1984.

THROUGHOUT LAST FALL, WE HELD A SERIES OF SEMINARS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES TO OUTLINE OUR PROPOSALS. WE ARE DRAFTING A DOCUMENT THAT WILL MAKE CERTAIN COMMITMENTS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. BUT BEFORE WE DO, IT IS NECESSARY TO MEET WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES -- THE FOREST COMPANIES, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, AND OTHERS -- TO REVIEW THE KINDS OF COMMITMENTS WE ARE ABOUT TO MAKE.

THROUGHOUT THE FALL WE HELD MEETINGS AND SEMINARS TO OUTLINE OUR PROPOSALS. WE THEN ASKED FOR COMMENTS, SO THAT WE COULD MAKE ANY NECESSARY REVISIONS. THOSE COMMENTS HAVE ALL BEEN RECEIVED AND WE ARE INCORPORATING THEM INTO A REVISED DOCUMENT THAT WE HOPE TO SUBMIT TO THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THIS IS A COMPLICATED PROCEDURE. BUT IT IS CENTRAL TO THE FUTURE OF ONTARIO'S FORESTS. AND IT PROVIDES A VERY ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THIS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT WITH REGARD TO FORESTRY AND REFORESTATION, AND THE PRESERVATION OF OUR WOODLANDS FOR ECONOMIC, RECREATIONAL AND NATURAL BENEFITS.

OUR LAND USE GUIDELINES LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A BALANCE BETWEEN OUR FOREST INDUSTRY AND OTHER CLAIMS ON OUR FORESTS. I AM THINKING IN PARTICULAR OF THE POLICY SET DOWN IN THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREAS -- AREAS THAT REQUIRE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING BUFFERS AND LAKE RESERVES THAT PROTECT IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL VALUES IN AREAS WHERE FOREST HARVESTING OPERATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE.

THE POLICY SET DOWN IN THE GUIDELINES CONSISTED OF SIX POINTS. ESSENTIALLY, IT DEFINED MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREAS, PLEDGED TO IDENTIFY THEM AND PROMISED TO CONSULT THE PUBLIC AS TO THEIR IDENTIFICATION AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY ARE TO BE MANAGED.

WE NOW PLAN TO TAKE THIS SIX-POINT POLICY AND REFINE IT AND EXPAND UPON IT, TO GET DOWN TO SPECIFICS.

MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREAS ARE TO INCLUDE NO-CUT ZONES OR SELECTED HARVEST ZONES OR BOTH -- IN ORDER TO PROTECT CERTAIN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FEATURES OF AN AREA WHERE FORESTRY ACTIVITIES ARE TAKING PLACE. MMAs WILL BE DECLARED WHERE IT IS FELT WE SHOULD PROTECT FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, SCENIC AREAS, RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM AREAS.

AND SINCE THE FOREST INDUSTRY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THESE MMA PLANS AND SINCE THEY'LL BE DOING SO AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY BE FULLY INFORMED AS TO OUR PLANS.

TO THAT END, WE HAVE CONDUCTED A SERIES OF SEMINARS TO EXPLAIN OUR INTENTIONS IN IMPLEMENTING OUR MMA POLICY. EARLIER THIS MONTH, OUR FIELD STAFF MET WITH STAFF OF THE GREAT LAKES PAPER COMPANY IN DRYDEN TO LAY DOWN DETAILS OF OUR MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREA POLICY AS IT AFFECTS THAT COMPANY. WE HAVE OFFERED SIMILAR SEMINARS TO THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS AND TO THE NORTHERN ONTARIO TOURIST OUTFITTERS.

MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREAS WILL BE A KEY ELEMENT WHEN WE NEGOTIATE OR RENEW FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH VARIOUS FOREST COMPANIES.



TO DATE, OUR MMA POLICY HAS BEEN A SUCCESS. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH THE NEED FOR CERTAIN PROTECTED AREAS. AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GAIN THE GOOD FAITH AND CO-OPERATION OF INDUSTRY BY SETTING DOWN BROAD PRINCIPLES FOR MANAGEMENT -- PRINCIPLES COMPANIES CAN UNDERSTAND AND EASILY ADHERE TO.

THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED COMMUNICATION -- AMONG ALL USER GROUPS. IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE DIALOGUE CONTINUE BETWEEN USER GROUPS AND GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE FOREST COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT. WE CANNOT POSSIBLY SET DOWN A LIST OF RULES AND THEN WALK AWAY, HOPING THEY WILL BE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION.

AGAIN, THIS IS ALL PART OF WHAT I HAVE CALLED THE "NEW POLITICS" OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ONTARIO. IT IS A PROCESS THAT INVOLVES THE CO-OPERATION OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. IT INVOLVES INDUSTRY AND INTEREST GROUPS -- ALL THOSE WHO USE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

WE HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT LINKS IN OUR FORESTRY SECTOR. WE HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE NURSERIES AND WOODLOT OWNERS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED REGENERATION OF OUR FORESTS. WE HAVE SIGNED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH FOREST COMPANIES TO ENSURE THAT WISE HARVESTING AND REGENERATION TECHNIQUES ARE EMPLOYED.

WE HAVE COMMITTED FUNDS TO RESEARCH IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR. WE HAVE HELD FOREST COMPANIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING OUR MODIFIED MANAGEMENT AREAS.

THROUGH ALL THIS AND MORE, WE ARE BUILDING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT, BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND USER GROUPS. WE ARE ADDING TO THE GIVE-AND-TAKE THAT MUST EXIST IF WE ARE TO MANAGE OUR RESOURCES IN THIS PROVINCE WITH THE GOODWILL SO CRITICAL TO A HEALTHY FUTURE.

### CONCLUSION

THE 1980s, MR. CHAIRMAN, PROMISE TO BE THE DECADE IN WHICH ALL ONTARIANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE BECOME SENSITIZED TO THE ISSUES INVOLVING THEIR PROVINCE'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

THE PEOPLE OF THIS PROVINCE ARE NOW CONSIDERABLY MORE INVOLVED IN RESOURCE PLANNING, THEY ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE INVOLVED IN THE ONGOING DEBATE OVER WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE WITH OUR RESOURCES, AND HOW WE PLAN TO ACHIEVE IT.

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, WE HAVE OPENED UP THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION. WE HAVE INCREASED THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONTARIANS TO SPEAK TO US ABOUT THE KINDS OF RESOURCE DECISIONS THEY WANT. AND, BECAUSE THE RESOURCE BASE IN THIS PROVINCE IS NOT STATIC, NEITHER IS THE DEBATE.

IT HAS BEEN MY COMMITMENT AS MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO FOSTER A SENSE OF PARTNERSHIP AND SHARING WITH ALL RESOURCE USERS. AND IT REMAINS THIS MINISTRY'S COMMITMENT -- BEFORE ISSUING POLICY STATEMENTS, BEFORE TABLING MAJOR NEW LEGISLATION, BEFORE DRAFTING LONG-TERM RESOURCE PLANS -- TO OFFER THOSE USERS A VOICE.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN OUR INCREASING TENDENCY TO INVOLVE RESOURCE USERS IN A TANGIBLE WAY. WE WANT TO FOSTER THEIR PARTICIPATION WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN OUR PROGRAMS; WE WANT TO BUILD BRIDGES WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WITH INDUSTRY, WITH INTEREST GROUPS AND WITH INDIVIDUAL RESOURCE USERS. WE HAVE DEVELOPED PROGRAMS THAT GIVE US A CHANCE TO WORK WITH ONTARIANS OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT.

THIS IS A RELATIVELY NEW DIRECTION IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT -- AND I BELIEVE IT IS A BETTER ONE. FOR WHILE GOVERNMENT SHOULDERS THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, IT WOULD BE FOOLISH INDEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO ACT ALONE IN MANAGING THESE RESOURCES. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THE BEST WAY TO ILLUSTRATE TO RESOURCE USERS THE DEPTH OF OUR COMMITMENT AND THE WEIGHT OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ALLOW THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CARRYING OUT OF THIS IMPORTANT MANDATE.

WE HAVE TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF OUR VAST AND VARIED CONSTITUENCY THE KIND OF BALANCING ACT WE MUST PERFORM IN ORDER TO PROPERLY MANAGE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

WE HAVE ASKED FOR THEIR INPUT, FOR THEIR OPINIONS AND IDEAS. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN TRYING TO WEAVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN WITH THE INTERESTS OF OTHER RESOURCE USERS.

FINALLY, IN SOME CASES WE HAVE ASKED FOR THEIR TANGIBLE SUPPORT. THE PARTNERSHIP IDEA IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IS WORKING. BUT IF THIS PARTNERSHIP IS TO CONTINUE ALONG ITS SUCCESSFUL PATH, WE NEED MORE THAN A SIMPLE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ABOUT SHARING AND SUPPORT. WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO GET THE JOB DONE.







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